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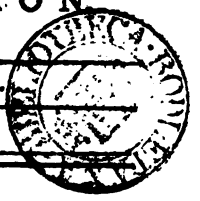

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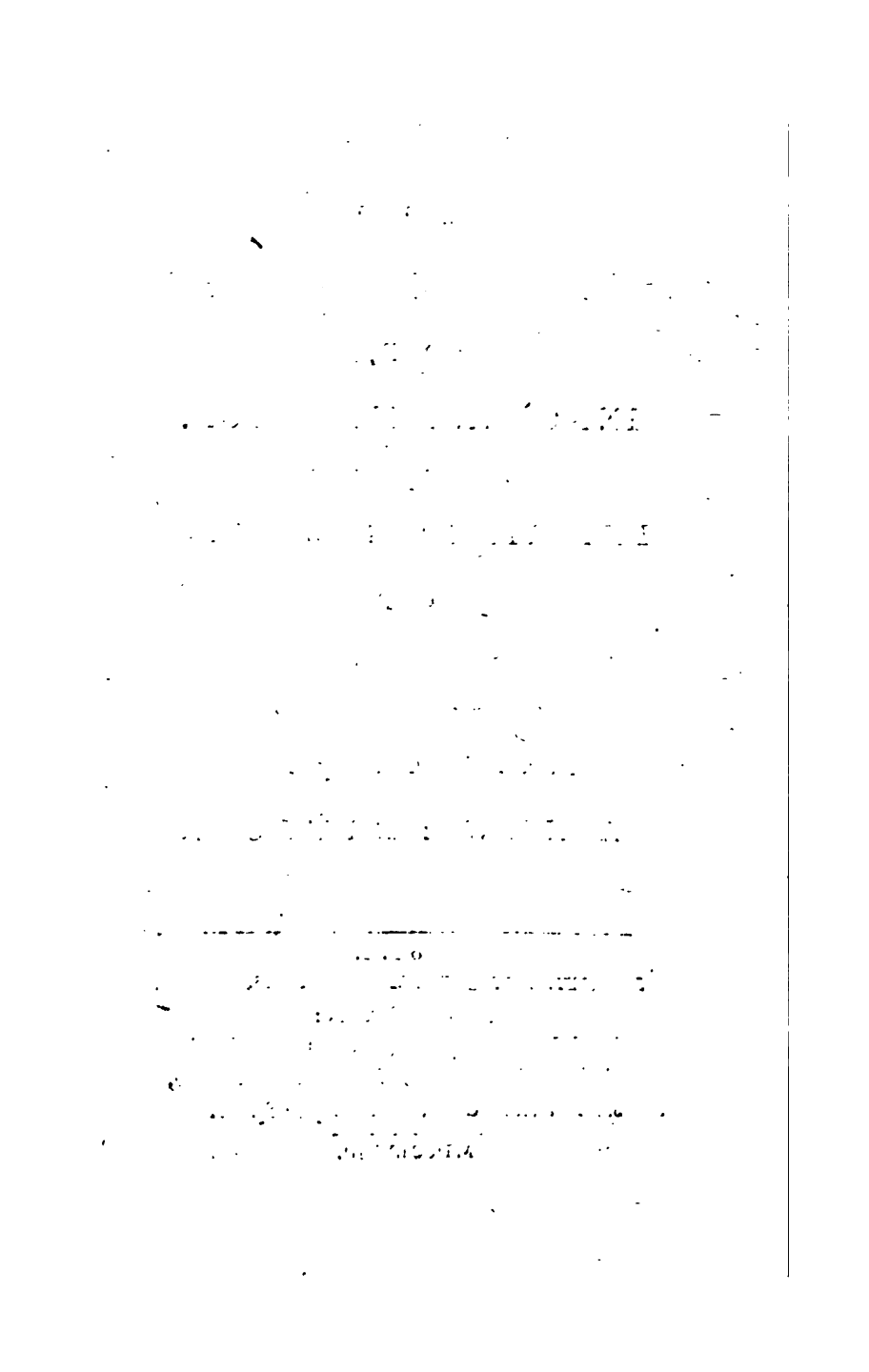

THE

PREFACE.

PREFACES are often calculated to anſwer many Purpoſes, altho' originally they were intended only to explain, and open the Nature of the Work, and Deſign of the Author. That this has been frequently neceſſary, in many Compoſitions, muſt, doubtleſs be acknowledg'd, in Conſideration, that the *Public*, without them, wou'd have been at a

Loſs to find out the Meaning, End, or Deſign of their Authors. Some, indeed, have gone ſo far as to point out to the kind *Reader*, whatever they, themſelves, imagin'd either to be Wit, Smartneſs, or Beauties. But on the contrary, the Publiſher of the following Work, whatever Reception it may meet with, is determin'd to leave the whole to the Judgement of the *Public*, thinking it ſufficient to ſubjoin a Letter, ſent by its Author to a Friend, deſiring his Inſpection and Opinion.

SIR,

I Don't doubt of your being ſurpris'd at finding me turn'd Author—you may laugh if you will

'will — but give me Leave to
'acquaint you, as I live in the
'Neighbourhood of the Families
'who are the Subject of theſe
'Memoirs, and from our Intimacy,
'have ſo often heard their Ad-
'ventures related, that I am ſatisfied
'(altho' many of them may ſavour
'of Romance) the Incidents are
'ſtrictly true, and the Characters
'drawn from Life. I own that
'my being affected, and pleas'd
'with the ſeveral Narrations, firſt
'induced me to endeavour to put
'them into ſome Form; the Ma-
'terials being communicated by the
'Parties themſelves. How I have
'ſucceeded, in compiling them, I
'ſhall ſubmit to your better Judge-
'ment, having only related a Nar-
'rative

'rative of Facts, in a plain, intelli-
'gible Manner; and, if in your
'Opinion they ſhou'd appear wor-
'thy of being made public, I free-
'ly make you the Preſent, being
'perſuaded a little of your Poliſh-
'ing, wou'd make them agreeably
'receiv'd by the World.

'But be it as it may, I ſhall not
'repent the Loſs of my Time,
'having receiv'd abundant Pleaſure
'and Amuſement in putting the
'ſeveral Incidents into Order. I
'propoſe being in *London*, in a-
'bout two Months, and ſhall then
'expect your candid Opinion. In
'the Interim, I am,

'*SIR*,

'*Your moſt obliged*

'*Humble Servant*.'

I have now only to add, that the Author died without ever coming to Town, as appears by his Friend's Indorſement on the Back of the Letter, tied up with the Papers, with the following Remarks.

'I ſhall always think myſelf 'obliged to my Friend for his Pre- 'ſent, and am charm'd with ſome 'of the Characters: The Incidents 'appear, *to me*, natural; nothing 'ſeems ſtrain'd; and the Whole, 'moral, entertaining and im- 'proving.'

I ſhall conclude with aſſuring the *Public*, that theſe Papers were found among others, in the Cloſet of a Gentleman, of great Abilities and Learning, lately deceas'd; and as it

it does not appear, that any Alteration was made by him, in the Author's Copy, the Manuſcript is ſent into the World in its native Dreſs.

P. R.

THE SUPPOSED DAUGHTER; OR, INNOCENT IMPOSTOR.

CHAP. I.

IN the County of *Northumberland*, within a few miles of *Berwick* upon *Tweed*, ſtood the Hall of the ancient Family of the *Richmores* which had long loſt its Original Name, and acquired that of *Hoſpitable-Hall*, from the Generoſity and humane Diſpoſitions of its Poſſeſſors. Not far from thence, an eminent Family of the *Wilſons* had a Seat delightfully ſituated. The conſtant Harmony and Friendſhip that ſubſiſted between them was a real Advantage to the Neighbourhood and

Country, by which they were both equally beloved; for they vied in nothing but in Acts of Generoſity and Benevolence.

As theſe Gentlemen and their Deſcendants are chiefly the Subject of the following Memoirs, I ſhall begin them in the Year 1670, by introducing the young Sir *Robert Richmore*, juſt come to the paternal Eſtate, ſoon after he enter'd the nineteenth Year of his Age. At the Time of his Father's Death, he was a Gentleman Commoner at *Oxford*, where his ample Allowance enabled him to ſpend as profuſely as the Sons of the firſt Men of Quality there; and with thoſe only he commonly convers'd. He was a handſome, genteel young Fellow, of ſprightly Parts, ready Wit, and ſuch a Pleaſantneſs in his Converſation and Manner, as made his Company very agreeable. At *Oxford* Races he happened to meet a Nobleman of great Fortune lately come of Age. They renew'd that Intimacy and Friendſhip which had been between them before my Lord left College.

lege. By him Sir *Robert* was prevail'd on to leave the Univerſity, and accompany him to *London*; where he aſſured him, the Gallantries and Pleaſures of a polite Court (to which he would introduce him) would raviſh his Senſes with Delight.

By taking this Step, the gay Sir *Robert* was initiated into all the faſhionable Extravagancies and Vices of thoſe Times. Theſe juvenile Exceſſes continued more than ſeven Years, when a Purſe ſufficiently drain'd, obliged him to take a final Farewell of the Court, and all its flattering Deluſions: Yet when he retired Home, he kept an open Houſe, and no way derogated from the opulent Manner of his worthy Anceſtors.

But the ready Money left by his Father to pay his two Brother's Fortunes, being long ſquander'd away in Riot and Debauchery, and many Debts contracted that became exceedingly troubleſome, having already cut down the greateſt part of his Timber, little remain'd ſtanding on his Eſtate, except the Trees in his Park.

Theſe Circumſtances made it neceſſary to raiſe a conſiderable Sum of Money. In order to which he apply'd to *Vulture Gripe*, Eſq; a cunning old Barriſter at Law, who had formerly married a rich Money-Scrivener's Widow in the City of *London*, and falling himſelf into the ſame Buſineſs, and by a Series of Extortion and Oppreſſion, had amaſs'd a prodigious Fortune. Mr. *Gripe* was then in the Country with his only Daughter, at an Eſtate he had lately taken poſſeſſion of, by turning out a Widow and five Children in a cruel Manner; whereby he juſtly incurred the Ill-will of every body. No Perſon of Condition, or Character, would converſe with him. Sir *Robert Richmore* alighting at his Gate, gave him the moſt ſenſible Pleaſure. He received the Baronet with great Marks of Civility and Reſpect; aſſuring him, he thought himſelf honoured and obliged by his Viſit; and that the Favour was ſtill greater, as it was at a Time he ſaw the whole Neighbourhood prejudiced againſt him, on account of taking an Eſtate into his Hands,

OR

on which he had lent more Money than it was really worth; that there were ſeveral Years Intereſt due, which he ſhould intirely loſe, and that if he was to blame, it was for Lenity and Forbearance ſo long when he had it in his Power to prevent the Loſs he muſt now ſuſtain. As Sir *Robert*'s main Buſineſs was to treat with him on borrowing Money on Mortgage, he attended very little to this Juſtification. He only took Notice, that he believ'd he had done no more than others would on the like Occaſion; That Truth comes out on hearing both ſides of the Queſtion; and for his part, he was ſurpriſed a Gentleman ſhould be ill uſed for recovering his Right; adding, he was well ſatisfied, when others had received the ſame Information, the whole Prejudice muſt naturally ſubſide.

Mr. *Gripe* then proceeded to acquaint him, how well he and his Daughter liked the Situation of the Houſe, Park, and Gardens; which had determin'd them to make it their conſtant Reſidence: Therefore he propos'd repairing, beautifying

and improving every Part of the Premiſes. That he flatter'd himſelf, Sir *Robert* would take a Family Dinner with him and his Daughter; after which, he ſhould be glad of his Approbation in the ſeveral intended Alterations and Additions. Altho' Sir *Robert* had no Thought of ſtaying longer than informing the old Man of his Errand, yet he was prevail'd on to conſent, on the Appearance of Miſs *Eleanor*, who join'd them in a genteel Undreſs: She was ſaluted by the Baronet, whom ſhe had ſeen once before at Church; and notwithſtanding it was more than two Months before, he had never been out of her Thoughts.

In ſhort the little blind Deity had left one of his keeneſt Shafts in her Breaſt; for ſhe ſaw, and lov'd the ſame Inſtant. She fondly hoped, and really imagin'd, Sir *Robert*'s Viſit was intended to her. As it would be ſome time before Dinner would be ready, a walk over the Houſe and Gardens was propos'd. Miſs pointed out every deſign'd Improvement, as they paſs'd through the Rooms; and conſtantly

ſtantly appealed to Sir *Robert*'s Opinion. The gay and complaiſant Manner in which he prais'd the Elegance of her Taſte, could not help being agreeable to her, and the old Gentleman her Father highly approv'd of every thing ſhe planned; for it is to be obſerv'd, ſhe had obtain'd an entire Aſcendancy over him. Her Genius was quick and diſcerning, her Perſon tall, genteel, and well ſhaped. She had a lively florid Countenance: and tho' her Complexion was none of the faireſt, yet the Symmetry of her Features, and her Eyes, which were black and commanding, made ample Amends for it. She was in her eighteenth Year: But her Education had been quite domeſtic. Her Father having been ſo jealous and fearful of ſome of the Town Fortune-Hunters running away with her, that he never had truſted her to a Boarding-School; nor would he permit proper Maſters to attend her at Home after the Death of her Mother; which happen'd in the tenth Year of her Age; from which Time he took her inſtruction up-

on himſelf: And none could have been more capable of it, had not the ſordid Paſſion of Covetouſneſs blinded his Underſtanding and eradicated every humane Virtue from his Heart.

The firſt Principle he inculcated was Frugality; and that Poverty was a general Attendant on that fooliſh Generoſity ſo much admired by weak People. That the greateſt Curſe on Earth was being poor: that Hoſpitality and Charity, were but other Words for Pride and Folly: that Religion, in reality, was no more than deep Hypocriſy; and that Honeſty, Truth and Sincerity, moſt commonly, are only Terms made uſe of to deceive the World. He own'd, the Appearance of ſome Virtues, occaſionally, were abſolutely neceſſary, and that would ſufficiently anſwer the End, as well as if they were really poſſeſs'd.

'Tis eaſy to conceive what fatal Impreſſion ſuch Diſcourſes muſt make on a young Mind; nor is it to be wonder'd at, Miſs *Eleanor* for ſome time ſeem'd proud, imperious and ſelfiſh; regardleſs of

of Religion, uncharitable to the Poor, insolent to the Servants, and unsociable to Subordinates; setting a Value on herself in proportion to the great Wealth of her Father: Yet, notwithstanding these infamous Documents, the natural Goodness, and Benevolence of her Disposition, shew'd several Instances of an upright Heart, endued with Compassion, Humanity and Charity.

Miss, who had never thought of Love before she saw Sir *Robert*, grew uneasy, melancholy and restless; and had endeavour'd to shake off a Passion, she plainly perceiv'd detrimental to her former Peace. But the little Tyrant had taken such strong Possession, that the more she struggled, the faster she was entangled in his Toils.

Sir *Robert*, who was no Novice in Love, plainly perceiv'd he was not indifferent to her; yet he was greatly perplex'd how to behave, as having long before publickly made his Addresses to Miss *Maria*, Niece to his Neighbour *William Wilson*, Esq; for he was unwilling,

willing, at preſent, that Mr. *Gripe* ſhould ſurmiſe he made any Advances to his Daughter; and was thinking of an Expedient to take his Leave for this Time, without mentioning any Thing of his firſt Deſign. Miſs ſeconded her Father's Requeſt, of ſpending the Evening with them, in ſuch a Manner, as put it intirely out of his Power to refuſe. The Evening was cheerfully ſpent. The old Man was highly pleas'd, in commencing a Friendſhip with the moſt popular Gentleman of the Country; politically propoſing to draw many Advantages to himſelf from it; nor was Sir *Robert*'s Satisfaction leſs, as hoping by this Intimacy to ſerve his Purpoſes, either by borrowing Money on better Terms, or elſe ſtriking up a Match with his Daughter, whoſe whole Behaviour convinced him, no Difficulty would ariſe, ſo far as her Conſent was neceſſary.

This laſt Conſideration induced him to become exceeding gay. His Eyes declared his Paſſion; he ſaid ſo many kind and obliging Things, to the already

ready enamour'd young Lady, that ſhe appear'd delighted at the Diſcovery of his Love.

When the Hour arrived for him to depart, he took his leave of the young Lady and her Father, promiſing that he would do himſelf the Honour of waiting on them again the next Day. After he had left them, he began to conſider his Pre-engagement with *Maria*, which preſented itſelf in full View; nor was he able to drive the charming Idea of her Beauty and Innocence out of his Head. He long waver'd, whether he ſhould purſue this advantageous Amour, or baſely abandon his firſt Miſtreſs. He went to Bed, but Sleep forſook his Pillow; a thouſand tumultuous Thoughts aroſe in his Breaſt, all preſſing for immediate Conſideration. The Conteſt between Love and Intereſt ran high a long Time; at length, Love and Honour were obliged to quit the Field. When he had perſuaded himſelf that he had found a reaſonable Pretext for leaving *Maria*, he had Sophiſtry enough to conclude ſhe

was no longer the ſame Lady he made his Addreſſes to; as not having the ſame Dependencies and Expectations, as when he firſt propoſed making her his Wife; that altho' this Alteration did not proceed from any Fault of hers, yet it was a Juſtification to him to act as he thought proper: Her Uncle, Mr. *Wilſon*, having imprudently, ſome Months before, married his Houſe-keeper during his Niece's Abſence from Home; and, as it was lately known ſhe was pregnant, and within two Months of her Time, it intirely cut of all Expectation of *Maria*'s inheriting his large Eſtate.

Another Conſideration, which he call'd prudent, occur'd to him, which was, that *Maria*'s independent Fortune, being only two Thouſand five Hundred Pounds, that Sum would not be even ſufficient to pay his own Debts, excluſive of his younger Brothers Demands. In Conſequence of this Manner of Reaſoning with himſelf, he came to a Reſolution of purſuing his Intereſt with

Miſs

Miſs *Gripe*, with all the Vigour and Aſſiduity he was capable of. As he ſhould, by ſuch a Marriage, be enabled to diſcharge his numerous Engagements, and likewiſe pay his Brothers their Fortunes, of two Thouſand ſix Hundred Pounds each, without incumbering his eſtate; which he muſt have been otherwiſe obliged to do, in order to comply with the preſſing Inſtances they both made for immediate Payment; for they were deſirous of ſettling in Trade, having ſerv'd Clerkſhips to an eminent Merchant at *Berwick*.

Sir *Robert* applauded the diſcreet and prudent Reſolution he had taken; concluding he was doing no more than an Act of Juſtice, he ow'd to his Brothers and Creditors, without conſidering how much he debas'd the Gentleman and Man of Honour, by a Breach of the moſt ſolemn Oaths and Promiſes, made many hundred times over: Nor did it enter into his Thoughts, what Opinion Mankind would hereafter entertain of his Faith and Honour.

The

The next Day he renewed his Viſit at *Gripe*'s according to promiſe, and finding Miſs *Eleanor* alone, he gave her the ſtrongeſt Aſſurances of an inviolable Paſſion; and affirmed, that the ſole Motive of his Viſits were to make a Tender of his Perſon and Fortune. He ſwore his old Oaths over again, on *her* Hand (which he kiſs'd with Raptures) as he had formerly done, on the forſaken *Maria*'s; and among many tender and obliging Expreſſions, declar'd ſhe was the only Lady on Earth he could be happy with; and that without her, he now was convinced, he ſhould remain a miſerable unhappy Man. That if he could prevail on her to give him Leave to mention his honourable Deſigns to her Father, it would exalt his fondeſt hopes; for that he had not a Wiſh beyond poſſeſſing his dear Charmer: Adding, the ſooner their Nuptials were compleated, the ſooner he ſhould arrive at his utmoſt State of Bliſs.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

MISS *Eleanor* was very attentive to every Syllable Sir *Robert* had uttered, and was greatly pleas'd; but more particularly with the latter Part. She, without the leaſt Ceremony, frankly own'd, that the Declaration of his Love inſpired a new Joy in her Heart, unknown before; nor could ſhe account for that, nor the Impreſſion the firſt Sight of him, at Church, had made in her Breaſt. She adviſ'd him, however, againſt ſpeaking to her Father, till ſhe had ſome Converſation alone with him; adding, that ſhe was not the leaſt diffident of prevailing on him, to give his Conſent, with a Fortune that would be acceptable to many of the Nobility of the firſt Rank. Sir *Robert* eagerly embraced her in his Arms; declaring, that her good Senſe, in throwing off all the Artifice and Diſguiſe of the greateſt Part of the Female Sex had charm'd him, and

added

added a Thouſand new Graces to her Beauty, and that he ſhould ever think his Life too ſhort, to recompenſe ſuch Honour, Truth and Goodneſs. They were interrupted by her Maid's coming, to acquaint them her Maſter was come home. She immediately went to her Father, and preſently after addreſſed him in the following words. Sir, you have always been kind and indulgent to me from my Infancy, to this Day; and I doubt not, you will do me the Juſtice to acknowledge, I have ever done my Endeavours to merit it. I never aſk'd but you granted, and you never commanded, but I willingly obey'd; nevertheleſs, I ſhould have been aſham'd and afraid, to have made the Requeſt I am now about to do, but for the high Opinion I know you have of Sir *Robert Richmore*, who has juſt now made me a tender of his Heart, and who, from the firſt Moment I ſaw him, I will own to you, has been ſo much in Poſſeſſion of mine, that I fear, if our mutual Paſſion has not your Approbation, you muſt never expect more

to

to ſee your affectionate Daughter enjoy one Hour's Peace of Mind,

My dear Child, ſaid the old Man (pleaſed at the Thought of having Sir *Robert* for a Son-in-law) be aſſured, if Sir *Robert*, whoſe Affections I thought had been already engaged, will aſk my Conſent, he ſhall readily have it with a Portion of no leſs than fifty thouſand Pounds.

Miſs *Eleanor* then expreſs'd the higheſt Senſe of Love and Gratitude to a Parent who ſhe ſaid had twice given her Life; and withal informed him, that Sir *Robert* had not only declared his Love to her, but had entreated her to acquaint him with his Paſſion, hoping thereby that he might have his permiſſion to Viſit her. Her Father, highly pleas'd, left her with a ſecond Promiſe, that if they were not married to-morrow it ſhould be their own Faults.

He immediately left her, and went down to Sir *Robert*, whom he took by the Hand, and thanked for the Honour he intended him, by an Alliance with his Daughter,

Daughter, and hoped to have his Company to Dinner, as it was his Daughter's Requeſt, who would be with them preſently.

Miſs *Eleanor* ſoon followed her Father, for ſhe long'd to inform her Lover how ſhe had ſucceeded; taking the firſt Opportunity of the old Gentleman's going out of the Room, to relate every particular that paſs'd, in the Conference ſhe had juſt had with her Father. The very mentioning of fifty thouſand Pounds, threw Sir *Robert* into ſuch an Ecſtacy of Joy, that he was near fainting away; for it was far above his moſt ſanguine Expectations. He made the tendereſt Profeſſion of his Sincerity; applauded her Management and Diſcretion; ſwore his Love exceeded all bounds, and could never end but with his Life; inſinuated, if he ſhould be ſo happy as to prevail on her to conſent to the Celebration of their Nuptials on the morrow, as her Father had declar'd his Aſſent, it would be ſtill adding to the numerous Obligations he already lay under: Then taking Notice

that

that her Father might change his Mind, or Delays and unforeſeen Accidents interpoſe themſelves, My dear, *Eleanor*, continued he, let us not for Formality-ſake defer our Happineſs, but reach it now it is in our Power; concluding, while he embraced her in his Arms, Oh my Charmer, let me not leave you till my Joys are compleat.

She was not diſpleas'd to find him ſo impatient; therefore reſolv'd it ſhould be her Father's Fault alone, if the next Day did not crown their Wiſhes. She, in return to the many paſſionate Speeches he had made, gave the ſtrongeſt Aſſurances of Love and Eſteem; which, ſhe ſaid, ſhe was not aſham'd to own, as they did not proceed from looſe or idle Thoughts; and that altho' the Time he had propos'd was ſhort indeed, and that ſhe was under no Apprehenſion of her Father's changing his Mind, yet to give him a convincing Proof of her Obedience, ſhe would now conform to his Will, as well as for ever after. He kiſs'd her Hand with a languiſhing Look;

Look; ſaying, You, Madam, have made me the happieſt Man living; let us inſtantly go to your Father, of whom I ſhall intreat his immediate Conſent. They found him in his Cloſet, and Sir *Robert* inform'd him, they came to claim his Morning's Promiſe, made to his Daughter; adding, it would be neither of their Faults, but his only, if the next Day their Hands were not as intimately united in the tender Ties of Wedlock, as their Hearts already were in thoſe of Love.

The old Gentleman was greatly ſurpris'd to find them in ſuch a Hurry; yet he ratified his Promiſe, of giving Sir *Robert* his Daughter, with a Fortune of fifty Thouſand Pounds: But deſired, they would give him leave to explain himſelf, in Regard to his Promiſe of To-morrow; for they muſt believe ſuch a Thing was never in his Intention, and that manner of Speech could only imply, he was well pleas'd with the Match, in a proper Time, and that he really meant no more thereby. He inſiſted

ſiſted on the Neceſſity of poſtponing the Wedding, till proper Settlements could be drawn; not doubting of Sir *Robert*'s readily agreeing to ſettle, by Jointure, as much of his Eſtate as it would bear; for Settlements were abſolutely neceſſary, to make Proviſion for younger Children; and beſides hinted, it would be impoſſible he could be prepar'd to pay the Dowry by that Time: Inſinuating likewiſe, they both ought to think of making ſome decent Preparation for their Marriage.

Sir *Robert* could not deny the reaſonableneſs of theſe Objections, therefore did not attempt to anſwer them; but pleaded, where Love was mutual, Ceremony and Formality might eaſily be diſpenſed with; that Settlements ſhould be drawn, as he thought fit, as ſoon as poſſible: That he had no Expectation of receiving any Money, till every Thing was compleated to Mr. *Gripe*'s Satisfaction; and that he look'd upon himſelf as ſecure in his Promiſe, as if he had paid the Money down. The Father, who had

had conſtantly kept his Eyes fix'd on his Darling Daughter (more ſolicitous of her Welfare than of his own Salvation) obſerv'd by her Countenance, the ſenſible Pleaſure ſhe would take in his Compliance, reply'd, after a long Pauſe, Well, my Children, for now I find I muſt call you both ſo, I agree it ſhall be as you would have it, tho' Prudence, I think, would have otherwiſe determin'd. He then addreſſed himſelf particularly to his Daughter; ſaying, You know, my Dear, I have been ſome Time making up ten Thouſand Pounds, which I deſign'd to lend the Earl of *B*——, on a Mortgage; as I have that Sum now by me, To-morrow Morning Sir *Robert* ſhall receive it, in Part of your Fortune; and the Remainder on the Execution of Settlements.

This unexpected Generoſity gave Sir *Robert* a different Opinion of his Father-in-Law. He was highly pleas'd, and acknowledged himſelf infinitely obliged: Aſſur'd him of his Reſpect and Gratitude; and that he would loſe no

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Opportunity, in his Power, to convince both him and his Daughter, of the Sincerity of his Intentions. Matters being thus finiſh'd, to the reciprocal Joy of the young Couple, a Servant was diſpatch'd for a Licence, a Clergyman in the Neighbourhood engaged, and ſuch Preparation made, as the ſhortneſs of the Time would permit.

Sir *Robert*'s two Brothers were at this Time at his Houſe. He ſent one of his Men with a Letter, deſiring to ſee them at Mr. *Gripe's*, early the next Morning, without the leaſt Hint of his Deſign; and another to his Valet, for ſuch Linnen and Cloaths as he wanted; being determined not to ſtir from old *Gripe*'s till he was married, for fear any unforeſeen Event ſhould happen, that might deprive him of his good Fortune.

Juſt as they were ſitting down to Dinner, a Chariot and four arriv'd at the Gate, which brought down two beautiful young Ladies from *London*. They were Daughters to the late Sir *Thomas Goodman*,

Goodman, who dying, about ſix Months before, had left Mr. *Gripe* their Guardian, as he ſtill had a Mortgage on his Eſtate, of twelve Thouſand Pounds, which had been made by Sir *Thomas*'s Father to *Gripe*'s Wife's firſt Huſband. By the late Sir *Thomas Goodman*'s Will, the whole Eſtate was to be ſold; and the Money, after Payment of the Mortgage, equally divided between the two Daughters. They now came, being both of Age, to cloſe with a former Propoſal of old *Gripe*'s to their Father, in his Life Time, and to ſettle Accounts with him.

Gripe receiv'd the Ladies with great Reſpect; and the kind obliging Manner, in which Miſs *Eleanor* behav'd, demanded their Eſteem. Their Arrival at this Juncture was the more agreeable, as they were young Ladies extremely well bred; of an affable, polite Behaviour, and of ſuch a happy Turn of Wit, their Converſation ſeldom fail'd of being delightful to the Company, and inſpired them with noble Sentiments of Virtue,

Honour,

Honour, and every ſocial Accompliſhment; and there was ſuch Vivacity and Cheerfulneſs in their Diſcourſe, which evidently proved, that Perſons poſſeſs'd of theſe Qualities make the moſt agreeable Companions in the World. After Dinner the Ladies entertain'd the Company with ſeveral little Incidents that had happen'd on their Journey: But declar'd, that one which had befallen them the preſent Morning, was ſo terrible, they trembled to relate it; however, Miſs *Arabella*, the eldeſt, began it as follows.

CHAP. III.

WE thought, Sir, to have reach'd your Houſe laſt Night: But at a Village, fifteen or ſixteen Miles from hence, it began to rain, and grew duſkiſh; the Coachman, to get what Information he could of the Road, ſtop'd at an Inn, where he gave his Horſes a Mouthful of Hay. The Inn-keeper's Wife accoſted us with Civility, aſſuring us of

good Entertainment, if we thought fit of accepting a Bed in her Houſe; at the ſame Time her Huſband inform'd us, we had moſtly Heaths and large Commons to go over. Our Coachman being fearful of not finding his Way in the Dark (having never been in this Country before) we concluded to ſtay the Night there.

Our Hoſteſs attended us up Stairs, to a handſome Bed-chamber. We were follow'd by two young Fellows, who rudely forced themſelves into the Room. This occaſion'd a Diſturbance; but the Landlord endeavour'd to remove them by fair Means: That failing, as they were much intoxicated with Liquor, he and his Servants put them out by Force; and both he and his Wife, obſerving the terrible Fright we were in, gave the ſtrongeſt Aſſurances of Protection; and that we had nothing to fear from thoſe drunken Gentlemen, for they ſhould be lodged in a Chamber quite on the other Side of the Houſe, which had no Communication with the

the Part we were in. This made us eaſy; and I muſt own, our Entertainment at this Inn, was rather better than any we had met with in the Journey; and our Chariot was ready, as we had order'd, about nine in the Morning.

We had not purſu'd our Journey above five or ſix Miles, when our Boy rid up, and told us, he obſerv'd three Men on a Hill, to our right, galloping as hard as they could, with a Deſign, as he thought, to come up with the Chariot; which, upon the firſt View we had of them, plainly appear'd. The Coachman, who prov'd very honeſt, likewiſe perceiving it, imagin'd they were Highwaymen; and without any Directions from us, took a Road inclining to the left, which led to a noble old Seat. His Horſes being exceeding good, and he putting them to a full Stretch, I really believe we ſhould have gain'd the Protection of the Houſe, before they could have overtaken us, had not, unluckily,

luckily, one of the Traces broke, juſt as we got to the Park-Wall.

Thus embarraſs'd, they ſoon came up; one of them, by his Dreſs and Behaviour, ſeem'd a young Man of Quality; another, that of a reprobate Companion and Dependant; for he ſeem'd to pay a great Deference to the firſt; and the third, wore a Livery-Frock. We were ſeized with Amazement and Terror, when we found them to be the Perſons that had inſulted us the Night before at the Inn, and not Highwaymen, as we expected. The two former rode up to the poor Coachman, who was mending his Harneſs, and began whipping him in a barbarous Manner; ſwearing dreadful Oaths, that he deſerved to be put to Death, for giving them ſo much Trouble. They next accoſted us, in ſuch Language, as muſt ſhock a modeſt Ear; and putting on the familiar Air of old Acquaintance, enquired, what Adventure had brought us ſo far out of our Vocation? Swearing that if our Town-

Friends

Friends had deſerted us, it was fortunate that Chance had thrown us in their Way.

We proteſted they were miſtaken; declaring ourſelves Daughters to the deceas'd Baronet, going to our Guardian, and were Women of Virtue, therefore beg'd they would deſiſt from any Ungentleman-like Attempts on our Honour, which could not be loſt but with our Lives. Notwithſtanding, they came to a Reſolution, to convey us to a Place, they ſaid, was about five Miles off, where we ſhould be accommodated with every Thing we could deſire. He that ſeem'd the Gentleman ſwore no Help was nigh; all Reſiſtance vain; therefore go we ſhould, being aſſured by his Friend, who knew us perfectly well, that we were Girls of the Town.

This indecent Speech, together with the Buffoon's taking my Siſter about the Neck, telling her they muſt be better acquainted, and with brutal Rudeneſs raviſhing many Kiſſes from her, ſhe fainted away. This Monſter of a Man took not the leaſt Notice of the Diſor-

der his ſavage Behaviour had thrown her into, but addreſs'd himſelf to his Companion, adviſing him to loſe no Time, in carrying us to the propos'd Place; uttering many Imprecations, that we belong'd to the Family of *Drury*, and were *Covent-Garden* Whores; and did not doubt, when we came to know his Quality and Generoſity, as well as he did, we ſhould bleſs our Stars for the ſeeming Force put upon us. The Coachman was order'd on the Box, and to follow them with the Chariot. The Diſtreſs and Confuſion I was in, no Words can paint. My Siſter ſtill continuing in the State her violent Fright had occaſion'd, without any remaining Signs of Life, which I much fear'd was quite extinguiſh'd; Hopes I had none, but in the Almighty: Him I implored, to ſave us from Infamy, Ruin and Deſtruction.

I often caſt my Eyes around, to ſee what was become of our Lad; at laſt, I ſaw him returning, with two young Gentlemen he had met a ſhooting. The

poor

poor Boy told us afterwards, he rode with what Speed he could towards the Houſe, in Hopes of Help, and in going thither, fortunately fell in with thoſe Strangers; who were no ſooner inform'd of the Danger he had left his Ladies in, but they order'd him to conduct them to the Place where he left us, declaring they would protect us, or loſe their Lives in the Attempt.

The undaunted Manner in which the young Gentlemen approached, intimidated theſe baſe Men; who drew a little Way off, and held a kind of Conſultation between themſelves; but perceiving the Gentlemen to advance pretty near, they got between us and them, and haughtily demanded their Buſineſs with the Ladies in the Chariot? ſcoffingly telling them, Knight-Errantry had been long exploded; therefore adviſed them, as they tender'd their Lives, and a whole Skin, to retire, before they grew angry; boaſting of their Superiority, in Number and Arms; the Servant riding with

a Blunderbuſs and Piſtols; of which laſt, each of the others had a Pair.

I think I can never enough admire the Courage and Fortitude of our Deliverers, nor ever forget the generous and gallant Return they made to theſe Menaces. We are come, ſaid one of them, with a determin'd Reſolution, either to free the Ladies out of the Hands of villanous Raviſhers, or to die in the Undertaking. The other Gentleman in an exalted Voice, and great Eagerneſs charged them inſtantly to depart, and leave us at Liberty to purſue our Journey; otherwiſe, as their Purpoſe was declar'd, they only waited for their withdrawing from before the Chariot, to convince them, that neither their Number or Arms, were capable of intimidating them from doing an Act of Humanity.

This reſolute Anſwer, with the Preparation they made to attack, ſo abaſh'd them, that they all turn'd their Horſes about, and rode away as faſt as they could; uttering ſomething which I did not diſtinctly

chiefly hear, intermix'd with many terrible Oaths. By this Time my Sister *Horace* was come a little to herself: On the Gentleman's coming up to us, we return'd our Thanks in the most grateful Words we could think of in this Confusion. They express'd a Concern at the Terror and Fright they plainly perceiv'd in our Countenances, and with great Complaisance assur'd us, they thought themselves happy in being instrumental in our Preservation; and obligingly requested our taking some Refreshment at their Brother's House, which was that we had before seen, and was near, tho' some lofty Trees prevented our view of it.

We begg'd to be excused, as having but a few Miles to our Journey's End: When they were inform'd where we were going, they conducted us through the Park, which was the best wooded, and indeed one of the pleasantest I ever saw, thereby saving us a great deal of Ground. They gently offer'd their Service to see us safe here, which we would by no

means permit. The unſpeakable Obligations we receiv'd, the courteous Behaviour and great Civility with which they took leave, left the ſtrongeſt Impreſſions of Gratitude in our Breaſts. Many Times we repeated we had not enquired the Names of our amiable Deliverers. Miſs *Harriot* added, their Perſons, Actions and Behaviour, were all indeed truly amiable.

This uncommon Adventure kept them all in deep Attention; they remain'd ſilent a good while; Sir *Robert* looking ſometimes at Miſs, and then at Mr. *Gripe*, believing they, as well as he, muſt know the Houſe ſpoken of could be no other than his own, and the two young Gentlemen his Brothers; therefore, as the Ladies would ſee them the next Morning, he choſe to conceal the Secret, that the Diſcovery might be more entertaining on his Wedding Day. In order to which, after congratulating their fortunate Eſcape, he took Notice, that by their Deſcription, he was perſuaded he perfectly knew the Houſe they

they had mention'd, and the Gentleman to whom it belong'd; but own'd, he thought the Account they had given of the Brothers, no way anſwer'd the Idea he had of their Characters. However, he commended the Aſſiſtance they had given them, tho' in that, he ſaid, they did no more than any body elſe of the leaſt Honour would have done in the like Circumſtances. His Deſign in thus depreſſing a generous Action, was artfully to diſcover what Impreſſions had been made on the young Ladies Hearts.

It ſucceeded to his Wiſh; they both colour'd, and ſeem'd diſpleas'd; replying, that what others might have done on the like occaſion they could not tell: But the real Benefits receiv'd from their Valour and Intrepidity, ought not to be forgot by them, nor treated with ſuch Indifference by others.

This little Heat, unwarily drew from them what they would have conceal'd from the Company; their Embarraſſment and Confuſion was viſible; which in ſome meaſure proceeded from the

Uncertainty they were under, whether they had inſpired any Paſſion at all; and if they had, the much greater was, whether the ſame Perſon might not be belov'd by both; or both of the young Gentlemen in Love with one of them: Or laſtly, whether *Cupid* might not have play'd at Croſs-Purpoſes with them all; Beſides theſe perplexing Thoughts, they fear'd ſomething more than Gratitude would be conſtrued, from the warm Commendations they had given of their Preſervers. Another Topic being introduced gave them Time to recover themſelves.

After Supper, Sir *Robert* gaily told them, that Miſs *Gripe* and he had a Requeſt to make, which they flatter'd themſelves would not be deny'd. He therefore took the Liberty of deſiring they would favour Miſs *Eleanor*, in being Bridemaids to her the next Morning; that being the appointed Time of making him happy: And that he had provided two Gentlemen to do him the kind Office of Bridemen, whom he hop-

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ed would prove no disagreeable Company. They obligingly consented, only making an Apology for their Dress. Miss *Eleanor* assured them, that neither Sir *Robert*, or herself, had made the least Preparation of Cloaths, and that they were no Friends to Ceremony.

About Eleven she waited on them to their Apartment, the old Gentleman being retired before. At her Return, the Lovers spent some Time in mutual Assurances of Love and Fidelity; but the little Rest they had enjoy'd the preceding Night, was the best Monitor to put them in mind of parting.

CHAP. IV.

TO return back to the young Gentlemen. They had no sooner left the Chariot (which they would not have done, had they not been acquainted by the young Ladies where they were going) but their whole Conversation ran on the Oddness of the Morning's Adventure:

ture: of the Beauty of the lovely Siſters, the baſe Intentions of the Villains: and in applauding their own good Fortune, in having an Opportunity of delivering them out of ſuch Hands.

Henry, the eldeſt of the two Brothers, was ſo greatly enamour'd with the charming Graces of *Arabella*, notwithſtanding the Fright and Diſorder ſhe was in, aloud declared his Paſſion for the talleſt of the Ladies; that he might plead a prior Right, in caſe his Brother *William* ſhould be in Love with the dear Object of his Wiſhes. His Fears were groundleſs, for *William* had gazed his Senſes away on the beautiful Face of *Harriot*; watching with the utmoſt Impatience the Return of that Vermilion in her Cheeks which the Barbarity of cruel Savages had driven away.

With Bluſhes he confeſs'd, the other Fair had taken ſuch ſtrong Poſſeſſion of his Heart, that it left him before ſhe even opened her Eyes; adding, the leaſt Cruelty from her would ſoon deſtroy

the

the little Fugitive, tho' none could ever induce it to return.

Each of the Lovers were under Amazement, that the other had not fix'd his Affection on his Miſtreſs, and were thankful Providence had otherwiſe decreed: Saying a thouſand fond Things in their commendation, while they rambled about the Park, contriving Means of ſpeedily ſeeing again the lovely Siſters. As old *Gripe*'s Character was deſpicable in the Eyes of the whole Country, they had neither viſited nor ſpoke to him in their Lives, and on what Pretence to do it now, was the Subject of long Conſultation

Before they could frame any probable Scheme, a Servant preſented a Letter from their Brother Sir *Robert*, deſiring their Company early the following Morning, to the very Houſe that contain'd all they thought valuable in Life. This unexpected good Fortune inſpired them with a Joy that none but the ſincereſt Lovers can truly taſte. They ſet out ſo ſoon for Mr. *Gripe*'s Seat in the Morning,

ing, that none of the Family were ſtirring, and good Manners prevented their knocking, altho' they were at the Gate.

One of their Horſes neighing very loud, brought *Arabella* to the Window (the Chamber the Ladies lay in having a Proſpect in Front, as well as another Backwards) who, on her ſeeing *Henry*, her favourite Champion, ran to acquaint her Siſter, the moſt amiable of their Protectors was at the Door. *Harriot* no ſooner join'd her, but ſaid, Indeed he was one of them, yet by no means could allow he was more agreeable than the other.

Preſently afterwards ſhe eſpy'd *William*, who had been ſhaded from their Sight, by the Branches of a large Oak, and cry'd out, Dear Siſter, pray look, for they are now both together, and tell me if you have not Reaſon to retract your Opinion. This luckily prov'd an Event that eaſed them of Part of the Anxiety they had been under: they naturally concluded theſe two Gentlemen were the deſtin'd Bridemen, and rejoiced

Chance

Chance ſhould throw ſo favourable an Opportunity in their Way, of knowing their Names, Family and Character; and alſo of being Judges, by Converſation, whether they were worthy the generous Sentiments they had conceiv'd of them.

The Ladies continued talking at the Window, unobſerv'd by the Lovers; who, after taking a Circuit round the Houſe, for about half an Hour, rode up again, and finding a Servant of their Brother's in the Court-Yard, he conducted them to his Maſter, who was juſt gone into the Garden. Sir *Robert* tenderly embraced them in his Arms, and diſclos'd his Intentions in ſending for them; the Miſs *Goodmans* ſaw likewiſe this Interview, and were convinc'd they were all Brothers, and blamed themſelves for indiſcreetly ſaying ſo much as they had done; and piqued at Sir *Robert*'s drawing from them a ſort of tacit Confeſſion, that their Perſons were not indifferent to them; wondering at their own Stupidity, in not finding out before, what now appear'd ſo very plain, by

by the great Reſemblance between the three Brothers

Miſs *Eleanor* came up to their Room, and after an Enquiry into their Health, and how they had reſted, deſired their Company to Breakfaſt: the Siſters came down, with a Reſolution to be more on their Guard. Miſs and her Father were in the Parlour; Sir *Robert* coming in, introduced his Brothers, preſenting them firſt to Miſs *Gripe*, as a young Lady who would ſoon become their Siſter, whom he did not doubt they would honour and eſteem: Then introducing them to the Miſs *Goodmans*, and taking Mr. *Gripe* by the Hand, ſaid, This Gentleman is Father to the Lady I am juſt going to be made happy with; in reſpecting him, you will oblige an affectionate Brother. This Ceremony being over, the Company got up to ſalute the Rector, Doctor *Smith*, his Lady, and two Daughters, on their Entrance. The two latter had been invited before the arrival of the Ladies from *London*, with a Deſign of making them Bridemaids: They were both

both agreeably handſome, and the Mother, a well bred Woman.

The enamour'd Brothers modeſtly advanced each to his particular Miſtreſs, *Henry* croſs'd quite over to place himſelf near *Arabella*, while *William* fixed very near Miſs *Harriot*; they both expreſs'd the higheſt Satisfaction at ſeeing the Ladies ſo well recover'd ſince their Fright, and receiv'd their Thanks in an obliging Manner. Miſs *Arabella* declaring it was to the Generoſity of thoſe Gentlemen, her Siſter and ſhe ow'd both their Lives and Honours: then turning to Sir *Robert*, with a Smile, told him, ſhe now found he was better acquainted with the Houſe, the Gentleman it belong'd to, and the Brothers, than ſhe imagin'd. He, with his uſual Gaiety, reply'd, his only Deſign in not diſcovering it was, that the Meeting here might occaſion a more agreeable Surpriſe.

Mr. *Gripe* and his Daughter expreſs'd themſelves extremely obliged to the Company, for honouring them with their

their Preſence; hoping, a ſudden Preparation would be allow'd an Excuſe, for any Inſufficiency; then leading his Daughter out, told Sir *Robert*, he ſhould be glad to ſee him in his Study: Where he perform'd all he had promis'd, on the Knight's ſigning a ſhort Article, ready drawn up.

In their Abſence, the Miſs *Smiths*, who long'd to hear the Miſs *Goodmans* Story, took this Opportunity of requeſting one of them to relate it. *Arabella*, always ready to oblige (tho' at this Time would gladly have been excuſed) told it without any Alteration, excepting only, the Deſcription of the Perſons of their Deliverers, and it affected them all tenderly: But what various Paſſions agitated the Breaſts of the Lovers, while ſhe was ſpeaking, is impoſſible to conceive; there appear'd alternately in their Faces (ſtrongly depicted) Fury, Love, Pity, Amazement, fixed Reſolution and Revenge; yet all theſe vaniſh'd, as ſoon as ſhe ceas'd, and all was calm and ſerene again.

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The Canonical Hour drew on, which oblig'd the Ladies to withdraw, to dreſs both the Bride and themſelves. The Nuptials were perform'd with Decency; each behaving with the Decorum due to the Solemnity of the Occaſion. Old *Gripe*'s Heart was quite open: He embraced his Daughter with Fervency; declaring, if ſhe brought him a Grandſon, within the Year, his Chriſtening Preſent ſhould be no leſs than ten thouſand Pounds; at the ſame Time, clapping his Son-in-Law on the back, with a Smile: Then taking hold of his Wards Hands, aſked them, whether their little Hearts did not flutter, to be following the Example his Daughter had ſhew'd them? and turning to the young *Smiths*, ſaid, See my dear little Girls, what you muſt all come to. He next addreſs'd himſelf to the young Gentlemen, crying out, Courage my Lads, the Enemy is drawn up before you (pointing to the Siſters, *Arabella* and *Harriot*) ready to engage; adding, The Fair are only to be won by the Brave; which

put

put them almoſt as much to the Bluſh, as he had done the Ladies before.

They were all ſurpris'd at Mr. *Gripe*'s Gaiety and Good-humour, yet more, at his Declaration of keeping Open Houſe for a Month; and indeed, during that Time, there was ſuch a general Profuſion, as could be found only at a Miſer's Feaſt. Perſons of Diſtinction, from every Part of the County, came to congratulate the Bride and Bride-groom; and the Common-people alſo flock'd thither, in great Numbers; and all were pleas'd with the ſumptuous Manner in which they were entertain'd. A Company of Strollers were kept in conſtant Pay; Balls and Plays, alternately, took up their Nights; conſiderable Prizes were daily given among Lads and Laſſes, in the ſeveral Exerciſes of Cudgeling, Running, Wreſtling, *&c.* In ſhort, nothing was omitted to make it a joyous Month.

Notwithſtanding all theſe Feaſtings and Diverſions, the Country's Averſion to old *Gripe* was ſuch, his Houſe might have

have continu'd a Deſert, had it not been for the Eſteem and Reſpect they bore to the *Richmore* Family. Sir *Robert*, nevertheleſs, made all the Preparation in his Power, to put his Houſe in Order, for the Reception of his Lady. Accordingly, at the Expiration of the Month, a new empty Coach and Six, with two others, fill'd with Relations and Friends, attended with above a hundred of his Tenants, to conduct the married Couple Home.

The Father ſeem'd unwilling to part with his darling Daughter; yet long before had blam'd himſelf, and repented of the precipitate Declaration he had made on the Wedding-Day; for when he began to cool, he thought every hour an Age, till he could ſee an End to his great Expences. Nevertheleſs, altho' Sir *Robert* and his Lady were for going Home in the Morning, Mr. *Gripe* inſiſted that the whole Company ſhould ſtay Dinner, and when that was over, he would ſee them Part of their Way Home. They conſented, and ſet out in the Afternoon,

ternoon, having firſt prevail'd on the Miſs *Goodmans* to ſpend ſome Days at their Houſe, and took them into their Coach.

Mr. *Gripe*, with Sir *Robert*'s Brothers, were on Horſeback. By the Way, the young Gentlemen communicated to him their Engagements with his Wards. He wiſh'd them Joy of that Conqueſt, which he believ'd their Merits deſerv'd. Soon after, he rode up to the Coach, wherein Sir *Robert* and his Lady were, and took a ſhort Leave, by ſaying, Adieu, my dear Children, I ſhall ſee you again To-morrow; his Heart was too full for further Utterance.

They arrived at Sir *Robert*'s Seat before Dark, and found the Country People aſſembled to give them a Welcome. A large Bonfire was lighted, that had been prepar'd in the Park. Thither they were all carried to regale themſelves, with what they ſhould find on ſeveral Tables, plentifully ſpread for that Purpoſe; where they rejoic'd, ſung and danc'd, till morning, after the Departure

ture of many Friends that attended the Bride and Bridegroom home.

By a general Conſent, the reſt of the Company went to Bed early, being quite fatigued and tired out, by the continu'd Noiſe and Buſtle of the preceding Month. A Propoſal of ſeeing no Viſitors the next Day, and dining in the Summer-Houſe in the Park, was greatly approv'd of. It was an elegant Stone-Building, ſituated on an Eminence, commanding a delightful Proſpect of the Sea, and adjacent Plains; through four grand Viſtos of venerable Oaks, which had been planted, in treble Rows, more than a Century paſt.

As ſoon as they had all Breakfaſted there, Sir *Robert* and Lady *Richmore* took a Walk by themſelves. By their not returning in half an Hour, Mr. *Henry Richmore* propoſed to go with Miſs *Arabella*, one Way, to look for them, while his Brother *William*, with Miſs *Harriot*, ſhould take down another Avenue, to do the like. It is eaſy to conjecture, neither of them were very induſ-

trious to find them out, but chose to employ those happy Hours, more to their mutual Satisfaction; pleasantly passing their Time, till the Bell rung to summon them to Dinner. They drop'd in by Pairs: *Henry* and *Arabella* first; who were obliged to stand the Raillery of Sir *Robert*, his Lady, and her Father, who was just arriv'd. The two last escaped their Share, by entering while the first Course was bringing on the Table. The Cloth being taken away, Mr. *Gripe*, whose good Nature had not quite left him, took Notice of what the young *Richmores* had the Day before said to him, by enquiring of the Miss *Goodmans* if they had really consented to take them for Husbands. With Blushes they confess'd their Obligations; and Gratitude put it out of their Power to refuse such honourable Proposals, from Gentlemen of such Merit.

Mr. *Gripe* then show'd *Arabella* a Letter from her Father, written a little before his Death; wherein he agreed to take the fourteen Thousand Pounds more,

more, for the Eſtate, which he had formerly bid; likewiſe giving Direction for drawing Conveyances accordingly, as the Title Deeds were already in his Hands. He ſaid that ſuch Deeds were drawn, tho' not ingroſſed, and if they thought fit to comply with the ſame Terms, he was ſtill willing to become a Purchaſer. On their agreeing thereto, he intimated, he had ſome things to propoſe for their joint Intereſts.

The firſt was, to have Accounts ſettled; whereby he apprehended there would be a Balance of ſeven or eight hundred Pounds due to them for Rents and Arrears, ſince their Father's Deceaſe; and next, he deſired to know if his Son, Sir *Robert*, would be content to take the *Goodman* Eſtate, at the Purchaſe he gave for it, in further Part of his Daughter's Fortune; and laſtly, inſiſted as a Guardian, that the *Richmores* ſhould ſettle their reciproeal Farm, of one hundred and fifty Pounds a Year, left them by their Father's Will; and likewiſe, two thouſand Pounds, at leaſt,

out of their Wives Fortunes, as a Provision for younger Children; adding, if he had been fortunate enough to please them all in his Scheme, he would undertake to put a finishing Hand to the whole, in five or six Weeks Time at the farthest.

Every Part of it appear'd so reasonable and just, that they all concurr'd to what he had propos'd. On taking Leave, Mr. *Gripe* assured his Children their Happiness was dearer to him than his own; promising to visit them every *Wednesday* in the Year so long as his Health would permit; telling the Lovers, nothing in his Power should be wanting to terminate their Affairs by the Time proposed; whereby he left them all in a perfect State of Tranquillity.

The Company continued till Night in the Summer-house, delighted with the Pleasantness of the Place, and the Melody of the Birds; but above all, with the Enjoyment of each other's Conversation without Intruders. Sir *Robert*

and

and Lady *Richmore* took Notice, how agreeable it would be to ſpend the remaining Part of the Week in ſuch ſerene Retirement; believing it would likewiſe enable them more chearfully to undergo the fatiguing Viſits of Ceremony they muſt unavoidably begin to pay.

As nothing could have ſuited better the Inclinations of the others, they unanimouſly paſt their Time there; daily ranging the delightful Park over, and amuſing themſelves with different Diverſions. Nor did the Lovers, while the new married Couple return'd their Viſits, much regret the Loſs of their Company; for hardly were they finiſh'd, before Mr. *Gripe* ſignify'd he was ready on his Part to perform all he had promis'd. Shortly afterwards, Articles were executed to the general Content of each Party; and on Sir *Robert*'s paying his Brothers Fortunes, a Day was appointed for the double Marriage. It was privately ſolemniz'd at the Ladies Requeſt; their Guardian ſtanding as common Father to both. They remain'd at their Brother's above a

Month before the Merchant, to whom they had ſerv'd their Clerkſhips, came, among other Friends, to pay his Compliments. He enquir'd whether they intended to embark in Trade; which being anſwer'd in the Affirmative, he highly commended their Reſolution; intimating his Intentions of quitting Buſineſs, and retiring to an Eſtate in *Scotland* which he had lately purchas'd. He expreſs'd a great Deſire of ſerving them; and made an Offer of his Houſe, Stock, *&c.* at a juſt Appraiſement; and withal, ſo to ſettle them in his Foreign Correſpondencies, as, together with their own Abilities, left him little Reaſon to doubt of their future Succeſs.

His well known Honour and Honeſty readily induced them to accept of his kind Propoſal; tho' not without the Approbation of their Wives and Friends. On an Invitation to his Houſe, abſolute Agreements were made for every Thing except the Houſhold Furniture; that he would not ſuffer to be valued, altho' fit for a Nobleman's Seat: Inſiſting of their Accept-

Acceptance thereof, as an Inſtance of his Regard and Friendſhip.

Thus were theſe young Merchants ſettled and ſituated, beyond their Expectations, in a Place where they were well known and reſpected; and poſſeſs'd with Fortunes ſufficient to carry on an extenſive Trade; which they long did, with Honour to the Nation, as well as profit to themſelves, and many Manufacturers; where we ſhall leave them, to purſue the Hiſtory of the Baronet, tho' in the Connection of that, frequent mention will be made of them and their Families.

CHAP. V.

MR. *Gripe* never omitted his weekly Viſits to his Son-in-Law Sir *Robert*, and ſeldom forgot to repeat a Homily on Frugality. He frequently inſinuated, that the Number of Idle Servants retain'd were uſeleſs; that what Sir *Robert* call'd a Hoſpitable Table, was

enough to ruin a Prince's Revenue. That his Houſe was more publick than many Inns in *England*; that his Men had little more Employ than common Tapſters; continually running from Morning to Night, between the Hall, Cellar, and Buttery. That he had obſerv'd many People coming out of his Gates loaded with Proviſions of all Kinds; which he rather believ'd muſt be ſold, than given away in Charity.

Theſe Arguments, and a great many more were anſwer'd by the Baronet with telling him, the Servants were all there in his Father's Time, nay, many of them in his Grandfather's; that he had hired no new Ones ſince he came to the Eſtate, unleſs it was to ſupply the Places of thoſe that died in his Service; and believ'd the ſame Hoſpitality was continued as uſual, but did not believe it was exceeded; however, when Mr. *Gripe* was gone, he call'd Mr. *Truſty*, his Steward, and inform'd him of all the old Gentleman had ſaid; giving him Directions for the future, to retrench the

uſual

uſual Proviſions on the Days of his Father-in-Law's coming.

This faithful old Servant who had been brought up in the Family, modeſtly repreſented that the Doors of *Richmore Hall* were never ſhut in his Anceſtors Time againſt the Poor; that it was known more by the Name of *Hoſpitable Hall* than that of its own. He begg'd leave to prove beyond Contradiction, how far Mr. *Gripe* was miſtaken in his Aſſertion, by producing the Houſekeeping Accounts for above threeſcore Years paſt; putting him in mind of what he well knew, that his Father had always worthily maintain'd the Honour of the Family, and left a clear Eſtate, the beſt wooded of any in the County, with a Sufficiency in ready Money to pay his younger Sons Fortunes.

Sir *Robert*, in a ſhort peremptory Manner told him, it was not his Advice, but Obedience he requir'd; ſending the Steward away with Tears in his Eyes; wiſely foreſeeing a Conſequence that happened ſoon afterwards. *Truſty*, however,

managed ſo prudently on the fix'd Days of Mr. *Gripe*'s coming, that he imagin'd his Counſels had taken Effect.

Lady *Richmore* growing near her Time, brought her Father ſometimes unexpectedly to ſee her, and thereby plainly diſcovered there was ſtill, as he called it, the ſame extravagant Houſe-keeping, of which he never fail'd to complain, both to Sir *Robert*, and his Lady: Again the Steward was ſent for, and receiv'd poſitive Orders to provide only a reaſonable Proviſion for the Family, without that ſuperfluous Abundance that was generally dreſs'd for all Comers and Goers; for that he would have none admitted into the Houſe but what came on real Buſineſs, and that even thoſe were to be diſpatch'd with a Horn of Beer, and a Cruſt of Bread and Cheeſe.

Lady *Richmore* being brought to Bed of a Son, the univerſal Joy occaſioned thereby in the Country was inexpreſſible. Love and Reſpect to the Family of the *Richmores*, brought Crowds of all

Sorts

Sorts of People to congratulate them on the happy Event. This ſuſpended the Steward's late Orders being put in Execution till after the Chriſtening. Then was *Truſty* again charg'd punctually to obſerve his former Directions. The poor, honeſt old Servant wrung his Hands, fell upon his Knees to his Maſter, crying out, Oh that I have liv'd to ſee the Day, that the noble Family of the *Richmores*, and this venerable Hall ſhould ſhut their Gates, which have Ages remain'd open to entertain the Stranger, feed the Hungry, relieve the Poor, and protect the Oppreſs'd! He declar'd, he would ſooner die than comply with ſuch Commands; begging his Maſter, by deſiſting from ſuch Reſolution, to ſave his Soul, good Name and Honour; but if he was bent on the Deſtruction of them all, deſired to be allow'd one Month to make up his Accounts, and be diſmiſs'd.

Altho' Sir *Robert* was unwilling to part with an old Servant that was born in his Houſe, of great Honeſty, Inte-

grity, and Ability, yet he diſcharg'd him, when he had ſettled his Books, to the Regret of all the Servants, who bewail'd his Departure with Tears; wiſhing as many Bleſſings might fall on his Head, as Curſes on old *Gripe*'s, who was the Occaſion of his Diſmiſſion, to make Room for a Creature of his recommending. Honeſt *Truſty* ſoon after went to his young Maſters the Merchants, where he was kindly entertain'd in the Capacity of a Clerk, and took upon him the Direction of their Houſehold Affairs.

Richmore Hall was turn'd upſide down on the new Steward's entering upon his Office; there no longer appear'd that accuſtom'd Plenty, nor were there to be ſeen the uſual cheerful Countenances as formerly; on the contrary, a frightful Spirit of Wretchedneſs and Penury ran through the Houſe; nothing abounded but Confuſion; the Steward often complaining to his Maſter of the Waſte, Idleneſs, and Diſobedience of the old Servants, and they of the tyrannical Behaviour of the Steward; till Sir *Robert*

was

was quite tired and made uneaſy, as well as the reſt of the Family, and would certainly have ſent him packing, had he not been powerfully ſupported by his Father-in-Law.

On this every one of the Servants gave Warning; declaring they could ſpend the laſt Drop of their Blood in the Service of their Maſter and Lady, but would ſooner become Galley Slaves, than live under the Management of ſo deſpicable a Wretch. The new Steward exulting in the Conqueſt he had gain'd over them, procured another Set of Servants, tho' not above half the Number which had been commonly retain'd; pretending they were full enough to do all the neceſſary Buſineſs of the Family, and that more only eat the Bread of Idleneſs, and ſtood in one another's Way. Theſe Savings in a little while began to be reliſh'd by the Baronet, as he found himſelf richer at the Year's End, than he ſhould have been had he continued his former Manner of Living.

From

From theſe Beginnings, the inſatiable Thirſt of Money took ſtrong Poſſeſſion of his Soul; all Seeds of Charity and Compaſſion were baniſh'd from his Breaſt; his old Tenants were miſerably harraſs'd, their Rents raiſed, exorbitant Heriots forced to pay, many of the Poor impriſon'd for gathering Wood, and cutting Turf, where they had long enjoy'd an uninterrupted Right; nor did he ſtop here, for by the Advice of old *Gripe*, his Father-in-Law, Sir *Robert* inclos'd a large Tract of Land, which from Time immemorial had remain'd open, and was uſed as a Common: Therein was a Quarry of Stone, from whence the adjacent Villages brought their Materials for Building: This caus'd a general Mumuring among the country People; at length, they aſſembled in great Numbers, and pull'd down the Fences Sir *Robert* had caus'd to be erected; ſeveral of his Servants and Workmen that endeavour'd to obſtruct them were beaten and wounded, nor could his own Preſence prevent their finiſhing their

Reſolu-

Resolution; nevertheless, the Prosecutions he commenced against some of the Persons concern'd, drove many of them out of the Country for fear of being sent to a Jail, as several others had been for the same Cause. This Proceeding aw'd the common People so much, that he soon rais'd his Inclosures again without Interruption.

Lady *Richmore* was far from inciting, encouraging, or approving this Disposition in her Husband. She often expostulated with him on his unreasonable Frugality, without the least Effect. Her being deliver'd of another Son, was no more regarded in the Neighbourhood than the Birth of the meanest Cottager; for many oppressive Acts had alienated the Hearts of the Country from the Baronet's Branch of the Family: Tho' it at first mortified his Pride, he soon got the better of it, and grew regardless of what might be either said, or thought by any Body.

It happen'd, in returning from this Christening of Sir *Robert's* second Son, the

the voracious *Gripe* met his deſery'd Fate in the following Manner. The Servant that attended him, had the Misfortune to break his Leg by a Fall from his Horſe, in their return Home in the Evening. The Maſter, in endeavouring to recover his Horſe, was carried ſo far out of his Knowledge, that he could neither find his Man again, or his Way Home. He rambled ſome Hours on a Moor in the Dark, and at length, he and his Horſe fell into a Coal-pit, that had not been work'd for many Years, four or five Miles diſtant from the Place where his Man was found.

Mr. *Gripe* being miſſing in the Morning, the moſt diligent Search was made, and a Reward to whomſoever could give any Account of him: On the third Day a Shepherd paſſing by the Pit, imagin'd he heard a mournful Voice iſſuing from thence. He haloo'd two or three Times as loud as he could, and aſk'd if any Body was at the Bottom? Yet could diſtinguiſh no other anſwer than Sighs and Groans. The poor Fellow

low having heard of the Reward, was overjoy'd at his good Fortune; concluding, he had certainly found the Perſon ſought after, and ran with all Speed to acquaint Sir *Robert* with the News.

Sir *Robert* in leſs than two Hours, was brought by the Shepherd to the Mouth of the Coal-pit, in which his Father-in-law had fallen. He came attended with proper Help, and a Surgeon; when they had with difficulty got him above Ground, it was found his Back and both Thighs were broke by the Fall, beſides many other Wounds and Bruiſes in different Parts of his Body; ſo that it was ſurpriſing that Life and Senſes ſhould remain, ſuch a Length of Time, in his woful Condition.

The Surgeon perceived that it was impoſſible for him to recover, but gave him a Cordial, which he greedily ſwallow'd, and then faintly beg'd ſomething to ſatisfy his craving Hunger; nevertheleſs he died in leſs than a Quarter of an Hour, from his being brought into the open

open Air. The Manner in which this Avaricious Mortal left the World, one would have thought should have check'd the Advance of that deteſtable Vice in his Son.

Oh! Avarice, thou worſt of human Paſſions, with which the Mind of Man is infected! None appears ſo unaccountable. No Pleaſure ariſing from its Gratifications is leſs ſatisfactory than the inordinate Deſire of Wealth. In other Affections, Poſſeſſion of the Object abates Deſire, and we reſt ſatisfied with Fruition; but in this, every Acquiſition is a Spur to the Paſſion itſelf; nor can we ſeldom leave accumulating, till we ourſelves are gather'd into the Grave. What Pleaſures ariſe from Avarice, the Avaricious indeed only know, as they alone can feel it; but if a Judgment is to be form'd, by Appearances, they cannot but be miſerable, blind to every real Good, and dead to every rational Enjoyment.

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

THAT vaſt Addition of Wealth which fell into Sir *Robert Richmore*'s Hands, by the Deceaſe of old *Gripe*, only increas'd the Deſire of accumulating more, yet it was attended with the general Curſe of ill-gotten Riches; for ſoon after he was inform'd, by his Father-in-Law's Attornies and Solicitors in *London*, of no leſs than ſeven Bills in *Chancery*, and four in the *Exchequer*, being ſtill depending. This News embarraſs'd his Thoughts Night and Day; ſome of them complaining of unjuſt Fore-cloſures of Eſtates, worth treble the Money advanced on them; others, to enforce Accounts of what Rents he had received of thoſe, long in his Poſſeſſion, which were ſtill retain'd, altho' they had clear'd themſelves; and many praying Relief againſt vſurious Contracts, and fraudulent Bargains. Some of theſe Cauſes had undergone a Litigation of more than twenty Years, in the ſeveral Courts, by the Tricks and Artifices

Artifices of this crafty Lawyer and his Agents, who 'tis probable, had he liv'd, would by the ſame Means and Strength of his Purſe, have continu'd to baffle Juſtice.

Sir *Robert*, intimidated at the Expence attending theſe numerous Suits, and fearful of the Event, came to a Reſolution to try if he could not put an End to them, by impowering his Father-in-Law's Agents, who knew the ſeveral Plaintiffs, and their Circumſtances, to accommodate Matters for him, on eaſy Terms, for ready Money; and he would not only comply therewith, but give them a bountiful Reward for their Pains. Accordingly they treated with them, and many conſented to take inconſiderable Sums for their Demands, having been long harraſs'd, and almoſt ruin'd by expenſive Chancery-Suits, and thereby become deſtitute of Means and Hopes, to give up their Rights, rather than revive their Bills againſt ſo potent an Adverſary, who they were inform'd,

if

if theſe Offers were refus'd, would never make another.

I ſhall now leave Sir *Robert* in Poſſeſſion of old *Gripe*'s Rapine, Plunder, and immenſe Riches (tho' far from any real Enjoyment) to ſay ſomething of the forſaken *Maria*, and her Uncle *Wilſon*; who, from Infants, had brought up her and her Brother, with paternal Indulgence, from the Death of their Parents. But his Nephew *William Wilſon*, at about the Age of eighteen, had fled from his Uncle, four or five Years before Sir *Robert Richmore* made his Addreſſes to his Siſter *Maria*, and had never been heard of, ſince his Departure from Home; ſo it was generally concluded, ſome juvenile, raſh Action, had depriv'd him of Life; and Miſs *Maria* was then look'd on, as Mr. *Wilſon*'s only Heireſs, till his imprudent Marriage with his Houſekeeper, about ſeven Months before that of Sir *Robert*'s (as has been already hinted); ſoon after which, Miſs *Maria* remov'd to Mr. *Weſt*'s Family, in the Neighbourhood, that

that ſhe might cauſe no Uneaſineſs, nor give any Umbrage to her new Aunt; where ſhe receiv'd conſtant Viſits from Sir *Robert Richmore*; he daily giving her the ſtrongeſt Aſſurances of his Love and Fidelity, to the very Time of his going to old *Gripe*'s Houſe.

How that Match was huddled up, has been ſeen already. I ſhall therefore proceed to relate the fatal Effects that follow'd the Diſcovery of his Perfidy. On the firſt News of Sir *Robert*'s Marriage, Miſs *Maria* fell into fainting Fits, which ſucceeded one another ſo faſt, for ſeveral Days, that they baffled the Phyſician's Skill to remove; who, deſpairing of all Hopes of Life, had Recourſe to a deſperate Remedy, by adminiſtering a ſtrong Opiate, which threw her into a Sleep of forty Hours, which he, as well as the Family, fear'd was her laſt; and when ſhe awaked, it could hardly be diſtinguiſh'd, whether her Pulſe beat at all; Nature ſeem'd exhauſted, and the Animal Spirits fled, or evaporated: She look'd as one who had

long

long languiſhed under a galloping Conſumption. Six Months paſs'd, in this Situation, before the leaſt favourable Symptom appear'd.

Thoſe only, who have experienced true and virtuous Love, can form any Idea of her Sufferings. At length, the Care of the Family, kind Viſits from her Uncle, and the Wives of the young Merchants (with whom ſhe had contracted the ſincereſt Friendſhip) greatly contributed to her Recovery. Tho' it was long before ſhe could be prevail'd on to leave her Room, yet her blooming Graces by Degrees return'd, with the Eſtabliſhment of Health; but ſtill might be ſeen a ſettled Melancholy in her Countenance, which neither Time, her Uncle, nor deareſt Friends, could wholly eradicate.

Miſs *Maria* remain'd in this penſive Way till the Death of her Friend Mrs. *Weſt*, in Childbed. This ſudden Accident cauſed ſuch a poignant Affliction, as endangered her Life a ſecond Time. She bemoan'd herſelf as the moſt miſe-

rable

rable of her Sex, doom'd to be a Wanderer from Place to Place; deplor'd the Loſs of indulgent Parents, and an only Brother gone, ſhe knew not whither; nay doubted much, if he was ſtill alive; and a kind Uncle married ſo diſproportionably to his Years and Circumſtances; to whoſe Houſe ſhe could not think of returning for fear of creating any Uneaſineſs in the Family of ſo dear and reſpected a Relation; whom of all the World, ſhe wiſh'd moſt happy: And to continue at a Widower's, was what ſhe thought not conſiſtent with her Reputation. After many Reflections of this kind, ſhe concluded to embrace the obliging Offers of her good Friends the *Richmores*; and, accordingly, after the Funeral of Mrs. *Weſt*, thoſe Ladies carried her Home with them, from a Scene of Sorrow, too great for her broken Spirits to ſuſtain.

The Affability and agreeable Converſation of theſe Friends, ſoon began to make a viſible Change in *Maria*. She re-aſſumed that Cheerfulneſs in her Temper,

Temper, which had always been conſpicuous. She ſaw Company frequently, and join'd in every little Party of Pleaſure contriv'd to divert her. Two Years had ſcarcely paſs'd in this Manner, when Sir *William Goodman*, a firſt Couſin of the Ladies, arrived from the Univerſity, to ſpend a Month with them. In a few Days, he fell deſperately in Love with the charming *Maria*; who, tho' ſhe had recovered a good deal of her natural Gaiety, had no Thoughts of embarking, a ſecond Time, in a Paſſion which had before given her ſo much Pain.

Maria reſolutely repulſed his firſt Addreſſes, with declaring ſhe had long determin'd never to alter her Condition; therefore begged, for his own Sake, as well as hers, he would deſiſt from any further Importunities; aſſuring him, neither Time nor Circumſtance, could change her Reſolves: But ſtill hoped, he would not believe this Reſolution proceeded from a Diſlike to his Perſon, Converſation or Fortune; that ſhe

eſteemed him; and in a more particular Manner, above the reſt of Mankind, for the Relation he bore to a Family ſhe had the moſt ſingular Friendſhip for. She concluded, with proteſting, a ſecond Declaration of his Paſſion would oblige her to retire from the Houſe of her Friends, much againſt her Inclination.

The ſolemn Air in which *Maria* deliver'd theſe Words, ſtruck the modeſt Sir *William* quite mute, and plunged him into the utmoſt Deſpair. He ſat ſome Minutes motionleſs, got up in Confuſion, only ſaying, as he left the Room, Dear Madam, I will rather die than offend you again. His Couſins, who both knew and approv'd of his Paſſion, eaſily gueſs'd how unſucceſsful he had been, by the dejected Poſture they found him in; they laugh'd, and rallied him, that the firſt Repulſes of a young Lady ſhould diſpirit him ſo much. He complain'd of being taken ill, deſired to be excuſed at Supper, as he choſe to go to Bed directly. They ſincerely pity'd

him

him in their Hearts, being ſenſible of the Purity of his Love.

Maria, ſoon after enter'd the Parlour, with more Reſerve than uſual in her Countenance. She likewiſe perceiv'd the ſame in thoſe of her Friends; on which, ſhe affected an Indiſpoſition, and retired to her Chamber, uneaſy at what had happen'd; and, undetermin'd what to do, in her preſent Situation. At laſt ſhe was of Opinion, ſhe might continue where ſhe was, if Sir *William*, who now knew her Mind, would no more renew his Addreſſes; but alas, little did ſhe know of her own Perfections, to imagine the amorous Fire ſhe had kindled, in the Boſom of the moſt ardent Lover, could be ſo eaſily extinguiſh'd.

Sir *William Goodman* did not cloſe his Eyes the whole Night: the next Morning he was found in a Fever, which increas'd to ſuch a Degree, the third Day, that 'twas thought extreamly dangerous. His Couſins often expoſtulated with *Maria*, on the Vehemency of his Love, the Condition it had already reduced

him to, and the Certainty of his Death, if ſhe ſtill continu'd cruel; and even went ſo far, as to charge her with Ingratitude, in deſtroying the Life of the moſt valuable Relation they had in the World, in return for having been the chief Inſtruments of ſaving hers, under the ſame Circumſtances; and left no Arguments unaſſay'd in his Behalf.

The young *Richmores*, altho' much diſcouraged by her Inflexibility, perſuaded her Uncle, Mr. *Wilſon*, to join his Intereſt with theirs, together with that of Mrs. *Vanmine*, a young widow Lady who boarded with them, and of whom more will be ſaid hereafter. At length *Maria*, in Obedience to her Uncle, Regard to her Friends, and Compaſſion to Sir *William*'s Sufferings, was not only prevail'd on to pay him a Viſit, but declar'd ſhe would make a Sacrifice of her ſelf, and Peace of Mind, to oblige them; proteſting, ſhe had much rather die, than be tax'd with the Sin of Ingratitude.

His kind Advocates, the three Ladies, embraced *Maria*, and flew to inform

form the deſpairing Lover of his Happineſs; but were greatly ſurpriſed to find the News ſeem'd to make no Impreſſion on him. He only faintly replied, they vainly endeavoured to cheat him into Life; adding, if it was really ſo, he fear'd it was much too late. *Maria*, at their Requeſt, had attended them to his Door, who, having heard what had paſs'd, immediately enter'd, took him by the Hand, and gave demonſtrative Proofs, that nothing but the Truth had been told him, and that now his Recovery was all her Concern.

A Torrent of Joy quite overcame Sir *William*, and before he could anſwer, he fainted away, and was near expiring. When the Phyſician came in, he blam'd them all, for having ſo abruptly acquainted him, with what ſhould have been diſcloſed by Degrees only, in his weak Condition. He deſired the Ladies would retire; and it was with Difficulty he brought him to himſelf: On his firſt opening his Eyes, he caſt them eagerly round, and ſeeing none in the Room, but the

Nurſe and Doctor, who had hold of his Hand, he accuſed them of forcing him back from Paradiſe, where he had met the divine *Maria*, who conſented with him to make the happieſt Pair there.

As Sir *William* was going on, in this delirious Manner, the Doctor aſſured him it was not mere Illuſion: That *Maria*, with his Couſins, had but juſt left his Chamber; and that the firſt had expreſs'd a lively Senſe of Pity and Compaſſion for his ſevere Illneſs; and that Pity and Compaſſion were the conſtant Forerunners of Love; that ſhe ſeem'd kindly to intereſt herſelf in his Recovery, and went ſo far as to ſay, there was nothing on Earth ſhe ſo ſincerely wiſh'd.

The Baronet reply'd, theſe were the richeſt Cordials he had ever given him; that ſeeing his dear *Maria* again, would either effectually reſtore his former Health, or give immediate Death; which was preferable to Life, without her, and was ſure he could read his Deſtiny in her Eyes, and would ſubmit to it, without

out a Murmur. The Doctor beg'd, he would endeavour to compoſe himſelf a few Hours, and he would undertake to bring the Ladies again to him. When he retired out of Sir *William*'s Chamber, he went to inform the Family what had paſs'd in their Abſence; during which, Miſs *Maria*'s Heart ſtruggled, her Colour went and came ſeveral times; ſhe earneſtly enquired, if there were ſtill Hopes of his Life, which plainly convinc'd the Doctor, he had not been miſtaken in his Conjectures.

After Dinner the Nurſe acquainted the Ladies, that Sir *William Goodman* was juſt waked out of the fineſt Sleep he had had ſince his Illneſs: that ſhe had help'd him up, and came with his Compliments, to requeſt their Company. They comply'd, and ſeam'd ſurpris'd on their Entrance into his Room to find him in a full Dreſs; he advanced to receive them, but through pure Weakneſs, would have fallen down when he went to ſalute *Maria*, had ſhe not caught him in her Arms, and ſupported him to his

Chair. This Incident tho' it dyed her Face with Bluſhes, gave freſh Spirits to her Lover; who, holding her Hand faſt in his, beg'd to know his Doom. She reply'd, Believe me, Sir, I wiſh your Happineſs equal to your Deſerts, and aſſure you my future Felicity will depend on your being intirely eaſy.—Give me Leave to retire now, for I am all Confuſion.

Maria left them bluſhing, thinking ſhe had ſaid too much; tho' the impatient Sir *William* remain'd unſatisfied, and would be contented with nothing leſs than a ſolemn Promiſe of Marriage, notwithſtanding all the Arguments his Couſins made uſe of to induce him to confide in the young Lady's kind Declaration: yet, as ſoon as they were gone, the Nurſe was again ſent to let *Maria* know, if ſhe did not condeſcend to bleſs him with her immediate Preſence, Uncertainty would as ſurely deſtroy him before Night, as Cruelty a few Hours longer would undoubtedly have done.

The

The tender-hearted and obligi
Maria, knowing the Violence of h
Paſſion, inſtantly comply'd, fearing a
ill Conſequence in his weak Conditi
might attend a Denial; nor did ſhe th
refuſe plighting her Faith to becor
his Wife, as ſoon as he was perfect
recover'd, or joining in reciprocal Vo
of Love and Affection; nay, farth
promiſed, ſhe would conſtantly atte
him till the Eſtabliſhment of his Heal
'Tis impoſſible to repeat the many A
knowledgments he made to her Kir
neſs, or conceive the ſudden Effects
produced. He daily gather'd Streng
inſomuch that in leſs than ſix Wee
their Nuptials were perform'd with gr
Splendor.

Sir *William Goodman* wanting
eight Months of being at Age, he
his Lady intimated a Deſire of conti
ing at the *Richmores* till then; and
this Propoſal was quite agreeable to t
Inclinations, more than ſeven Mon
of that Time were ſpent in the higl
Felicity and Satisfaction. But ſee

Inſtability of human Affairs! They believ'd themſelves arriv'd at the very Summit of Happineſs, bleſs'd in the mutual Enjoyment of each other's Love, and in the Expectation of an endearing Pledge thereof, when Lady *Goodman* receiv'd the firſt mortifying News of the Deceaſe of her good Uncle *Wilſon*. While ſhe truly griev'd his Loſs, two Days afterwards the following tragical Accident unfortunately happen'd.

A Servant who uſually attended Sir *William* on Horſeback, being taken ill, he took a Ride one Morning without him, about two Miles from Sir *Robert*'s Seat, and obſerving at a Diſtance by a Wood Side, three Men violently attacking a ſingle Gentleman, he made what haſte he could to his Aſſiſtance; on his coming up to them, he found the Perſon ſo aſſaulted to be Sir *Robert*, who defended himſelf as well as he could with a Hunting Pole: his timely Aſſiſtance, by knocking down one of the Fellows with the But-End of his Whip,

Whip, prevented the deſign'd Aſſaſſination. As theſe Villains were making off into the Wood, one of them that had a Bill in his Hand, unfortunately gave Sir *William* a deſperate Cut over his Head, with ſuch Violence as brought him to the Ground, and fractur'd his Scull, where he lay Bleeding and Motionleſs ſome Time. Sir *Robert* ſet him upright, with his Back againſt a Bank, ty'd up the Wound with a Handkerchief, took his Horſe, and rode to his own Houſe with all poſſible Speed for proper Aſſiſtance, and his Coach to carry him thither.

When Sir *Robert* return'd with it, Sir *William* inſiſted on being convey'd Home, to which he was attended by two of the former Servants. As they drove into the Court Yard, Lady *Goodman* unluckily was looking out of the Window. She was ſurpriſed at ſeeing Sir *Robert Richmore*'s Equipage come there, as he had forborn viſiting his Brothers for more than three Years paſt: But when ſhe ſaw her Huſband taken out of

the Coach, pale, bloody, and unable to ſtand, ſhe inſtantly fainted away, and fell into ſtrong Labour.

The Surgeon who immediately came, could hardly prevail on him to have his Wound dreſs'd, before he wanted to be led to his Lady. A Man Midwife ſoon arriv'd, who declar'd no Art could ſave her, altho' he had Hopes of preſerving the Child. On the other Hand, the Surgeon was of Opinion, Sir *William*'s Wound was mortal, and that he could not ſurvive many Hours; both of the Faculty were unhappily too right. Lady *Goodman* was delivered of a fine Girl, and ſoon after by both their Deſires, Sir *William* was convey'd to her Bed; where they had juſt Time to take a tender laſt Adieu, expiring in each other's Arms before Night to the inexpreſſible Grief of all their Friends. The ſame Evening Sir *Robert* came to pay them a Viſit, and ſeem'd greatly concern'd at the unfortunate Cataſtrophe.

This loving Pair were interr'd, according to their joint Deſire, in one Coffin.

ſin. Sir *Robert* attended their Funeral, and when it was over, he intreated his Brothers and Siſters that he might be one of the Sponſors at the melancholy Chriſtening that was to enſue, which was granted him; and he proteſted he would have the ſame Love and Regard for the Infant Orphan, as for that of his own new born Daughter three Days before; that he would bring it up, and provide handſomely for it; nay, would always look on the Child as his own, in Conſideration of his being the unfortunate Occaſion of the Loſs of its Parents without any Proviſion; which he had great Reaſon to believe muſt be the Caſe, as Sir *William Goodman*'s Eſtate fell to his younger Brother on his Demiſe, without male Iſſue: And as to Lady *Goodman*'s Fortune, he was ſatisfied the greateſt Part thereof had been laid out in Cloaths, Repairs of the Family Seat, Furniture and Equipage, againſt his coming of Age; therefore propoſed ſending the young *Maria* to Nurſe *Yeoman's*, where his own Daugh-

ter

ter already was. His Heart appearing thus open, a perfect Reconciliation took Place in the Family, and the Child accordingly was ſent thither.

CHAP. VII.

MRS. *Yeomans*, who had been Nurſe to all Sir *Robert*'s Children, was a Farmer's Widow; and lived in a pretty Houſe of her own, about four Miles from Sir *Robert Richmore*'s. She had that, and an Income of twenty-five Pounds a Year, to maintain herſelf and Daughter. She had lived many Years Houſekeeper in the *Richmore* Family, and was deſervedly reſpected by them all. By what Means Mrs. *Vanmine* came to board with her, will be ſeen hereafter. I ſhall therefore now proceed with Mrs. *Vanmine*'s Account of her own Life, as ſhe related it at Mrs. *Yeomans*'s Requeſt, ſoon after coming thither, and as a Copy of it was preſerv'd I ſhall give it in her own Words.

I loſt

I loſt my Parents very young: My Father, about three Months after I was born, and my Mother, before I was five Years old. They were both of a reputable Family, but as he was a younger Brother, he had but a ſmall Fortune. Hers, which was three Thouſand Pounds, was left entire at her Death. She made her Siſter's Huſband, Mr. *Maddox* a Merchant, Executor in truſt for me, being an only Child. He was a Man of Probity and Honour, who had acquired a large Fortune, with a fair Character; he had one Son, of about a Year and a half old, when I was brought to his Houſe. Young as I was, I ſoon found the Difference between a tender Mother and an Aunt (tho' I believe ſhe ſincerely lov'd me) the moſt paſſionate Woman in the World, and more abſolute in her way, than the moſt deſpotick Monarch, for the leaſt Contradiction would ſet the whole Houſe in a Flame; and it was impoſſible to remove either Prejudices or Miſtakes by Reaſon, being poſſeſs'd with a poſitive Opinion

nion she thought rightly, and acted justly. Mr. *Maddox*'s peaceable, good-natur'd Disposition, rather increas'd the Impetuosity of her Temper; his good Understanding was constantly oblig'd to submit to whatever her violent Passions call'd right and just. I am unwilling to think his Days shortened thereby; but he died before I had been a Twelvemonth with them.

By his Will, my Aunt was appointed Executrix; and in which he left his Son an Estate in *Cornwall*, of about three hundred Pounds a Year, and five Thousand Pounds when at Age; and the Remainder of his Fortune, which was more than thirty Thousand Pounds, to her disposal. Never was Husband's Death more truly and affectionately lamented, nor the Vow of Widowhood she then made, more religiously kept. To do strict Justice, I must show the bright Side of her Character; which would have been transcendently so, had not her violent Passions got the Ascendency of her Reason; for she was truly religious,

religious, virtuous, humane and charitable; with an Honesty that cou'd no more be corrupted, than a Vow she had once made, broken; and so tenacious of her Word was she, that I have often heard her declare, that she had rather suffer the most ignominious Death, than be guilty of the least Breach of it.

But to proceed. She grew extreamly fond of me; I did all in my Power to oblige her, and as she thought she observ'd a Genius above my Years, she resolv'd to improve it by an Education uncommon to our Sex, by agreeing with a sober Clergyman, a Curate in the Neighbourhood, to attend four Hours every Day, to instruct me, and my little Cousin, in the learned Languages; which he continued to do near eight Years. Whether he flatter'd my Aunt when he affirmed I was a much better Scholar, and had a superior Stock of Learning, than most of the young Fellows of four Years standing in either of the Universities, I will not pretend to say; but 'tis true I had read most of the Classics, both

grateful Temper ſuggeſted, ſhe cou'd not be too civil to a Perſon that had eminently ſerv'd her. She deſir'd he would bring his Son to ſee her, declaring, on the Father's Account, ſhe ſhould be glad of rendering him all the good Offices in her Power.

The firſt Time he ſaw me, he pretended to his Father, as I afterwards underſtood, to be violently taken with my Beauty; and prevail'd on him (who willingly wou'd have ſeen his Son married, as well as ſet up, before he return'd) to make Propoſals to my Aunt. He did ſo ſeveral Times, and her general Anſwer was, ſhe thought me too young to exerciſe the Duties of a Wife; nor was ſhe willing to part with me at any Rate. Yet his Importunity, and Offer of giving his Son double my Fortune, together with the amiable Character he gave of him, at laſt overcame all other Conſiderations; and it was agreed between them, that ſix thouſand Pounds ſhould be paid by her as my Portion, on his laying down twelve thouſand on

his

his Part; which Sums were to be depoſited in the Hands of Mr. *Price*, (his Son's late Maſter) and a Contract made to enter into Partnerſhip with him.

All Things being thus ſettled between them, one Morning waiting on her in the Chamber as uſual, ſhe receiv'd me with more Familiarity than I had ever obſerv'd; and embracing me cloſely, ſaid, ſhe look'd on me now as her Friend, as well as Niece; that my prudent and obedient Behaviour from a Child, gave her no Reaſon to doubt my Compliance, in whatever ſhe thought proper for my Good. I thank'd her for the kind Opinion ſhe entertain'd in my Favour; adding, I ſhou'd think myſelf undeſerving her Eſteem or Care, was I capable of doing a diſobedient Act, or any thing elſe that might diſoblige ſo worthy an Aunt. She kiſs'd me again as a Proof of Approbation.

I fell into a Trembling I knew not why, and was afraid of I knew not what. A certain foreboding Heavineſs

ſeiz'd

ſeiz'd my Spirits, tho' I had no Idea of her Deſigns, 'till taking me by the Hand, ſhe ſmilingly ſaid, *Biddy*, my Dear, I have provided a Huſband for you: He is a prudent, modeſt young Man, Son to my good Friend Mr. *Vanmine*; and as he dearly loves you, I think it will be both a happy and advantageous Match. She then inform'd me of the Addition ſhe had made to my Fortune, and whatever elſe had been agreed on between them. Perceiving the Tears burſting out of my Eyes, hers began to ſtrike Fire, and her Countenance change to the Auſtere; ſaying, if all her Love and Care was to be repaid with Perverſeneſs, and Contradiction to her Will, I might take my own Way, and never ſee her Face more: Then ſuddenly left me to bemoan my Fate, in being oblig'd to marry a Man whoſe Temper and Converſation I knew ſo little of; nor wou'd I at that Time, by my own Conſent, have changed my Condition.

Tho' I dreaded the Outrageouſneſs of her Paſſion more than Death, I had ſtronger

ſtronger Reaſons to induce my Compliance to her Commands: Duty, Love, Gratitude, and a firm Opinion that what ſhe propos'd ſhe really believ'd was for my Intereſt. Theſe Conſiderations operated ſo forcibly, that I followed her to the Cloſet, proſtrated myſelf at her Feet, and promis'd to make my Eyes as obedient, as my Heart and Tongue had always been. She ſeem'd angry with herſelf for uſing me unkindly, and endeavour'd to comfort me, by ſaying, her ſeeing me happily ſettled in her Life-time, wou'd give her the higheſt Satisfaction, tho' ſhe ſhou'd dearly pay for it in the Loſs of my Company: And many other obliging Things, which I am confident proceeded from the Sincerity of her Heart.

At the ſame Time ſhe gave me my Mother's beſt Jewels, which I had not yet worn; and then took out her own Diamond Necklace, and in tying it on, ſaid, Accept this, my dear *Biddy*, let it plead an Excuſe for what ſo lately happen'd. You know my haſty Way, which

which I wiſh I cou'd correct. Go to your Couſin, continue to love him as a Brother, which I am ſure you do; return to me in my Cloſet when you hear the Bell ring, having many Things to ſay, and get yourſelf dreſs'd, for the *Vanmines* dine with us.

I went out with a heavy Heart, tho' charm'd with the Goodneſs and Honeſty of hers, that never deceiv'd any body. Good God, who is perfect? none on this Side the Grave. Her only Fault was, the ſuffering her Paſſions to govern without Controul; cou'd ſhe have obtain'd a Dominion over them, ſhe would have come the neareſt to Perfection of any of our Sex.

The Moment I heard the Signal, I ran up to her, where ſhe gave me a great deal of good Advice, in regard to the State in which I was ſo ſhortly to enter; with a particular Charge never to give way to my Paſſions. She own'd herſelf an unhappy Inſtance of having too much indulged them in the Beginning, 'till by Degrees they became too power-

powerful; which Practice often precipitated People into raſh Meaſures, and many Misfortunes, proceeding generally from Self-ſufficient and ſtrong Opinion of the Rectitude of their own Thoughts and Actions; but above all, admoniſh'd me to make heavenly Truth (in which, ſhe ſaid, all Virtues were included) my conſtant Standard, and Rule of Life. She diſmiſs'd me, with taking Notice, my ſubmitting to what ſhe judged eſſential to my Well-doing, was exceedingly agreeable to her.

'Tis impoſſible to conceive what I ſuffer'd in my confuſed Mind, having none either to adviſe with, or complain to. My Thoughts were wholly employ'd in finding out ſome Way or other of delaying, at leaſt, if I cou'd do nothing elſe. At length, I reſolved to try what I cou'd do with my Lover; believing if he had a Regard for me, or any Notion of Honour or Humanity, he wou'd not take that Advantage over me, which my Aunt's Promiſe had given him. The Father and Son came: Af-

ter Dinner Mr. *Vanmine* and my Aunt went out, taking my Couſin with them, that we might be left by ourſelves.

No body will wonder at the young Gentleman's Addreſs and Behaviour, when they are told, the Extent of his Education conſiſted in being a Maſter of Figures and writing a fair Hand, and his Knowledge, in little more than being a Judge of the Commodities he dealt in. The Counting-houſe was the only Place in which he could ſhine; as the narrow Allowance of his Father during his Clerkſhip, had oblig'd him to aſſociate with low Company, and deprived him of an Opportunity of improving by better Converſation. This ſet of People had flatter'd him into a high Opinion of his own Merit and Parts, tho' deſtitute of every good Quality. He was proud, vain, poſitive, and a Libertine amongſt the Meaneſt of the common Women; yet he had Artifice enough to conceal theſe Enormities from his Father and Maſter, as well as my Aunt. Her good Opinion of him, and his ſaying

ing

ing little before her, caus'd her to miſtake his Ignorance for Modeſty, which ſhe highly valu'd in both Sexes.

But to return from whence I digreſs'd, of our being left alone. He ſoon rudely threw his Arms about my Neck, and almoſt ſmothered me with Kiſſes. I did all in my Power to diſengage myſelf, and leave the Room. He held me faſt, and without the leaſt Ceremony, ſaid, I wou'd not be ſo coy a Week hence; for, he ſuppos'd I knew the old People had agreed we were to be married the next Day. I was ready to die with the Thoughts of my Aunt's Barbarity. I fell on my Knees, implor'd with Tears, and beg'd, if he had either Love or Compaſſion, he wou'd freely and kindly grant me one Year to conſider of the Duties of a married State; aſſuring him, the obliging me in this Requeſt, wou'd go further in gaining a grateful Heart, than all the Force in the World cou'd poſſibly do.

He reply'd, Miſs, you know I am a Merchant, and I muſt tell you, I can-

not conſent to your Propoſal; 'tis running the ſame Riſque, as if I was to keep a Bill of Exchange by me, when payable, without proteſting. No, no, we always carry them to a Notary Publick, which ſecures our Property. I ſuppoſe you underſtand me; beſides, I have another Reaſon for not running the Hazard; for, you muſt know, I believe my Father wou'd not have ſtretch'd his Purſe ſo wide, but on your Account; and if the Buſineſs is not tranſacted before his Return to *Holland* (which he muſt do in two or three Days, by Reaſon of Letters receiv'd of my Mother's being given over by the Doctor) he might put me off with much leſs Caſh; ſo you may plainly ſee how much I ſhou'd act againſt my own Intereſt, in doing what you deſire. Don't ſtand, ſhilly-ſhally; I love you as well as any one need; as to what you ſay of gaining your Heart, that gives me little Concern. If I get the Money, your Perſon will ſerve me well enough. I am ſure you ought to make no Objections, as I bring double

the

the Caſh, and think myſelf as well for a Man, as you are for a Woman. This unkind, brutiſh, and unmannerly Speech almoſt diſtracted me; and finding 'twas vain to expect Compaſſion from his Breaſt, I determin'd to try once more to raiſe it in my Aunt's.

She obſerving, at her Return, my Eyes red, and ſwell'd with Crying, the Scarlet flush'd in her Face, which was the ſure Sign of a Storm. She order'd me to follow her up Stairs; I did ſo, threw myſelf again at her Feet; intreating to be heard patiently, for I was ſtill ready to obey her Commands in every thing, even unto Death; nay, to marry Mr. *Vanmine* To-morrow, if I ſhou'd be ſo unhappy as not to prevail on her to defer it for a longer Time; for that, I was perſuaded, the more ſhe ſaw of him, the more unworthy he wou'd appear in her good Opinion. I related truly what had paſs'd between us in her Abſence, and was heard without the uſual Heat and Interruption, which,

without doubt, proceeded from the Declaration I had begun with.

After a little Pauſe, ſhe ſaid ſhe was not ſurpriſed to hear my Virgin Modeſty plead ſo hard for Time, nay, rather commended me for it; that nothing but the Neceſſity of Mr. *Vanmine*'s Departure ſo ſoon, and his inſiſting on ſeeing the Nuptials perform'd, before he left the Kingdom, cou'd have induced her Concurrence; that, during their being Abroad, each had depoſited Money agreed on, in the Hands of Mr. *Price*. She then endeavour'd to excuſe the Rudeneſs and Ill-manners, with which I had been treated; telling me, there was more Beauty in Truth and Sincerity, than in all the Flattery and frothy Compliments in the World. She ſuppos'd I expected to be courted in Heroics, like Ladies in Romance; bade me baniſh ſuch idle Thoughts, and think of nothing but cheerfully joining Hand and Heart with the Man ſhe had choſen for my Huſband; being morally aſſur'd, it wou'd be my own Fault, if I was not quite happy.

happy. She concluded with saying, Do your Part discreetly, and I will answer for all Consequences; pray, therefore, let me hear no more Objections.

All I cou'd obtain, was a Respite of another Day. Thus was I, by the greatest Violence to my Inclinations, married to the most unsociable Creature living, who ruin'd both himself and me, in less than Eighteen Months afterwards. We continued a Month at my Aunt's: She and my Cousin going into the *West* of *England*, where she had an Estate, and we to a House which had been taken for us, in the City, by my Husband's Father, before he left *London*.

The Partnership with Mr. *Price*, the Merchant, not being to commence 'till the Expiration of six Months, from the Execution of the Articles, was a great Misfortune to my Husband; for not knowing how to employ himself out of Business, he contracted a Habit of rambling continually about the Court End of the Town, to which he was before an utter Stranger. There he accidentally

fell into Company with ſeveral profligate young Fellows. I ſeldom ſaw him but at Dinner; he ſpending moſt of his Days, and ſometimes Nights, among them, pretending to me he was improving his Fortune, when in Fact he was rioting it away, as faſt as he could.

I was quite ignorant of his drawing ſix thouſand Pounds out of Mr. *Price's* Hands, on various Pretences; and three thouſand Pounds more, before the Partnerſhip was to take Place: Theſe Sums being ſquander'd, diſabled him from entring at all into it; he therefore propos'd cancelling the Articles, which the other readily agreed to, having heard more of his Extravagances than he approv'd of in a Partner.

The remaining nine Thouſand Pounds were paid into my Huſband's Hands, and with this Money, he propos'd to carry on Trade ſeparately. He accordingly acquainted his Father therewith; inſinuating, that the many Difficulties he met with, in ſettling with Mr. *Price*, had oblig'd him to conſent to the deſtroying of the Articles

Articles of Partnerſhip, rather than ſubmit to many groſs Impoſitions; that he was in no doubt of ſucceeding, by Care and Induſtry, full as well by himſelf, having fortunately made an Acquaintance with ſeveral Lords, and other great Men about the Court; ſending an Order for ſuch Quantities of Lace, Linnen, &c. which he at preſent wanted, and hoped in return, he ſhou'd receive his Commands for ſuch Goods as he might have Occaſion for on this ſide the Water.

Tho' the old Man was not well pleas'd at his Son's Proceeding, yet he was too partial to think him in the wrong. He threw the Blame on Mr. *Price*, imploying him no longer as his Factor; ſending a Cargo, that was juſt ready to ſail, conſign'd to my Huſband; it arriv'd ſafe, and was quickly diſpos'd of; Returns were made, and another valuable one ſent for on his own Account; and a Veſſel he had lately bought was diſpatch'd with Goods, which was to return loaded here. This little Show of Buſineſs did not laſt long; for the looſe

Company, he unhappily got acquainted with, continually haunted him, as he was too good a Bubble to be ſuffer'd to ſlip through the Claws of ſuch hungry Harpies.

They often decoy'd him on Parties of Pleaſure Abroad, where they were always ſure to ſtrip him of what ready Money he had, by Play, which by Degrees he became fond of. And as he very often drank to a Pitch of Inſenſibility, he frequently gave Notes for conſiderable Sums, loſt to thoſe Sharpers, whom he took for Gentlemen of Condition and Fortune, by their Titles and Appearance; imagining, they did him particular Honour, in admitting him among them. One was indeed a Lord, another a Baronet, and Member of Parliament; but, both, by Debaucheries and Extravagance, become as neceſſitous as the reſt.

The particular Deference he paid to theſe two, created a Jealouſy among them; fearing they intended to engroſs the whole Plunder to themſelves. My Lord, ſometimes, kept him in the Country

try two or three Days, and generally caution'd him againſt the reſt of the Company, as bad Men, who would certainly make a Property of him; that he had found them out to be ſuch; therefore, as a Man of Quality and Fortune, he would be no more ſeen with them; and hoped Mr. *Vanmine*, for the ſame Reaſons, would alſo do the like.

The others, notwithſtanding, were continually calling at our Houſe; and from his Want of Reſolution, often got him to make one of their Party, and as ſurely made him their Dupe, to the great Regret of my Lord, whoſe ſole Aim was, to have the Honour of ruining him himſelf. Such Profeſſions of Friendſhip and Eſteem, from a Man of his Addreſs, were ſufficient to impoſe on one much better acquainted with the World than Mr. *Vanmine* was.

My Lord often carried him to the Lodgings of a Miſtreſs he was tired of, and wanted to get off his Hands; tho' he pretended to my Huſband, ſhe was a Woman of Quality, and that he was the

only Man living he ever intruſted with the fineſt Creature in the Univerſe, whom he loved to Diſtraction. Yet intimated, merrily before her, that if he could obtain a Part of her Heart, he could be content to ſhare it with his good Friend Mr. *Vanmine*, without the leaſt Jealouſy: And as a Proof thereof, inſiſted on his ſtaying Supper, and entertaining the Lady in his Abſence, he being oblig'd, he ſaid, to ſpend the Evening with the Duke of——, who had promiſed him one of the moſt beneficial Employs at Court; declaring (and with great Earneſtneſs looking at both) that the Power he ſhould thereby have, of providing handſomly for his Friends, gave him inexpreſſible Pleaſure. My Huſband acknowledged to me, that the Deference he paid to my Lord's Injunctions, detained him; and confeſſed, with a Heart full of Grief, in a general Relation he gave me, the particular Cauſes of his Ruin; otherwiſe I ſhould have remained an utter Stranger to moſt of theſe Tranſactions.

CHAP.

CHAP. VIII.

MR. *Vanmine* thus left alone, with the moſt wicked, as well as artful Woman living, in ſtrict Confederacy with her Gallant, and Youth and Beauty on her Side, you will not be ſurpriſed that my unexperienced Huſband, unwarily, fell into their crafty Snares. *Valeria*, for that was the Name of the Sorcereſs, began a Hiſtory of her Life, which ſhe related in the following Manner.

I loſt my Father and Mother in my Infancy, who were of the firſt Faſhion. Under the Guardianſhip of a Grandmother immenſely rich, I was ſent to a Boarding School, where Lord *G*—— having ſeen me with other young Ladies at Church, found Means to corrupt one of the Servants to bring Letters to me, full of Love, Flattery, Promiſes of Marriage, and eternal Conſtancy; nay, in one, threatened to make away with himſelf if I ſtill continued cruel; for I had never anſwer'd any of them, often forbid-

forbidding the Maid to receive any more; threatening her, if she did, I wou'd that Instant acquaint my Governess with it.

She seem'd frightened, begged pardon, and promised never to concern herself again between us, since it was disagreeable to me, for whose Sake and Advantage only she undertook it, insinuating, that few Misses wou'd refuse the Addresses of so handsome and accomplish'd a young Nobleman as my Lord was; who she knew was dying to make me his Wife. She perceiving what she had said made some Impression on my good Nature, Youth, and Inexperience, she grew more bold; persuading me to grant him one meeting, to hear his Proposals; which, she said, I might easily do, when I went to visit my Grandmother, who was then in Town. She so far prevail'd, that I consented, provided she went with me, and promis'd not to leave us a Moment by ourselves.

Oh! the perfidious Wretch! I shall never think of her, nor that fatal Night without Horror! My Lord met us in the

the Park by her Appointment, and beg'd I wou'd give him an Hour's Opportunity at a Friend's, to declare the sincereſt Paſſion in the World. The Surpriſe and Fear I was in, made me inſenſibly go into a Tavern with him, and the Maid not going up Stairs with us, threw me almoſt into Fits. I ran to the Door to call her, but he fell on his Knees between that and me, ſolemnly proteſting, his Intentions were truly honourable; that he would ſooner die than commit the leaſt Indecency; that his Love was of ſuch Purity, that it wou'd defend my Virtue, even againſt himſelf; and, continuing in that Poſture, gave me the ſtrongeſt Aſſurances of an inviolable Paſſion; ſwearing many Oaths, that his future Happineſs was center'd alone in my Charms; nor wou'd he ever riſe from my Feet, till he cou'd make ſome impreſſion on my Heart, or obtain a favourable Anſwer, which might give him Hopes of one Day's joining our Deſtinies together; otherwiſe, vowing my Eyes ſhou'd be a Witneſs of his Sincerity,

cerity, by beholding him expire on his own Sword.

I took him up, for fear he ſhou'd do, what I am now ſenſible he never intended; and Fool enough to believe his Oaths and Flattery, promis'd, if my Guardian approv'd of the Match, he ſhou'd not wait long for my Conſent. He ſeem'd tranſported at my Declaration, kiſs'd my Hand in Raptures, and ſaid ſo many kind and obliging Things, that Time ſlipt inſenſibly away. I neither conſider'd who I was with, where I was, or whither I ſhou'd go. On Enquiry I found the deceitful Slut had left me, and that it was paſt Eleven o'Clock. He obſerving the Conſternation I was in, endeavoured to remove it, by ſwearing he wou'd ſee me ſafe to his Aunt's, who was a Lady of the ſtricteſt Honour, where if I would be ſo good as to ſtay, 'till my Grandmother's Conſent cou'd be procur'd, how infinitely happy I ſhou'd make him.

I not knowing what to do, in the Dilemma he had brought me into,

agreed,

agreed, and ſat down to ſupper. The little Wine I drank I believe intoxicated me, but the ſweet muſick of his Tongue, that talk'd of nothing but Love, much more. Two Chairs were ſent for; he put me in one, and followed in the other; but inſtead of being carried to his Aunt's, as he had promis'd, he told me, as it was too late to go thither, he cou'd make bold with the Lady of the Houſe where we were ſet down, to accommodate me with a Lodging for that Night; and beg'd leave to ſee me to my Chamber, from which he would inſtantly retire, and leave me to my Repoſe.

On my ſeeming unwilling to go to Bed, he declar'd on his Honour, Love, and by every Thing ſacred, I was as ſafe there, as at home; and that he wou'd not enter the Room, till I roſe in the Morning; then wiſhing guardian Angels might attend my Slumbers, left me with a young Woman that was to be my Bed-fellow. In full ſecurity, under theſe faithleſs Promiſes, I, poor Innocent,

cent, believ'd, and was undone; little ſuſpecting I was now in one of thoſe infamous Houſes of Debauchery call'd a Bagnio, where fatigued, and kept up to an unſeaſonable Time of Night, I ſoon fell into a ſound Sleep. But oh, Heavens! how was I ſurpriſed at waking, to find myſelf cloſe lock'd in my Lord's Arms!

I cry'd out as loud as I was able, but no body came to my Aſſiſtance; he ſtop'd my Mouth with Kiſſes, ſtill ſwearing he had no Intention of injuring me; that altho' the Violence of his Love had raſhly hurried him into a Breach of Promiſe, he hop'd that wou'd plead for his Pardon; and if I wou'd but have Patience to hear him, he wou'd undeniably prove he had committed no Crime; unleſs I held it to be one for a Huſband to come to bed to his Wife; inſiſting, mutual Conſent truly made the Marriage; that, tho' the Parſon had not join'd our Hands (which was only a Ceremony, and ſhou'd be done on the Morrow) we were, really and truly, Huſband and Wife, as much as he cou'd make us. But, no way con-

convinc'd by his fallacious Arguments, I cry'd, intreated, pray'd, and struggled to no Purpose; his superior Strength prevail'd; and he took that by Force, which my Weakness cou'd no longer defend.

Here she made a full Stop, shedding some Crocodile Tears, as if Modesty prevented her proceeding. My Husband was so affected thereby, as he told me, that he cou'd not help wiping his Eyes several Times, which were ready to burst out with Tears. He express'd himself in the most compassionate Terms to her, declar'd his Sorrow and Concern for such Virtue and Innocence betray'd; blamed my Lord's Cruelty and Infidelity; saying, 'till now he always believed him a Man of Honour. He confess'd, his Lordship's Offer, before he went out, and her Beauty had inflam'd his Heart with a Fervency of Desire, before unknown to him; but since he had heard her mournful Story, he resolv'd to banish all interested Views from his Breast, and endeavour by Persuasion, and Solicitation, to induce my Lord to

repair

repair both their Honours, by a ſpeedy Marriage.

She ſuddenly interrupting, return'd him many Thanks for his kind Intentions: Adding, he knew little of my Lord; own'd his Dealings with Mankind might be quite honeſt; but in thoſe with her Sex, he was the moſt perfidious Villain living, which he would acknowledge, if his Patience (which ſhe fear'd was already tir'd) wou'd give her leave to go thro' with the many ſhocking Particulars of his Behaviour ſince her fatal Ruin. Encouraged by my Huſband, ſhe proceeded, thus.

The Grief and Remorſe I felt the next Morning, almoſt turn'd my Brain, tho' ſooth'd by all the deluding Arts of the moſt deceitful Man on Earth; ſtill ſwearing, altho' I had made him but imperfectly happy, he was ready to give the ſtrongeſt Teſtimony of his Love, Gratitude and Affection, by inſtantly having our Nuptials perform'd. Tears, Sighs, and Bluſhes, were all the Anſwers I could give, from which he took upon

upon him to conclude, a publick Wedding, in the Face of the World, wou'd be more agreeable to me. He ſeem'd to applaud my Sentiments, tho' I meant no ſuch Thing; call'd me his Dear, his Life, Love, and charming Bride; declaring he was fonder of the laſt Title, than of Honour, Riches, Health, or what other Pleaſures the World cou'd beſtow. Yes, my all that's dear in Life, added he, we will be married in Splendor; the whole Town ſhall be Witneſs of my Happineſs.

As the Preparations will unavoidably require ſome Time, I think it will be more prudent for us both to have a private Lodging, where I will conſtantly attend you, than to go to my Aunt's; whoſe ſcrupulous Virtue might lay a Reſtraint on our innocent Freedoms. He having put it out of my Power to have any Will of my own, I conſented, and ſuffer'd myſelf to be carried the next Day to a Lodging of his providing, in an obſcure Part of the Town, where I found a Maid Servant, ready

to

to receive me, who had been ordered thither by his Direction.

He immediately ſupply'd me with ſuch Neceſſaries as were wanting; for I had no other Cloaths with me than thoſe on my Back. He never left me an Hour, under Pretence of exceſſive Fondneſs, for above a Week. I often put him in mind of his Promiſes, and the Uneaſineſs his Delays occaſion'd; his Anſwers were always evaſive, yet delivered with an Air of Sincerity, attended with ſolemn Promiſes of Faith and Honour. My Heart was ready to burſt, yet was I obliged to ſubmit, knowing no other Remedy. As he now began frequently to go out, and ſometimes lie abroad, it put him to the Neceſſity of framing various Excuſes to me for his Abſence, which I, fooliſhly enough, at firſt believ'd, but ſoon cou'd plainly perceive the Complacency, good Humour and Reſpect he had hitherto us'd, was become much abated, and by degrees dwindled to a negligent Indifference. Good Manners alone reſtrain'd his Tongue, and he took care I ſhou'd want

want for nothing in his Abſence, in the Country; where he ſometimes ſtay'd three Weeks or a Month, nay, was once ten weeks at *Bath*, without letting me have the Pleaſure of hearing from him in the whole Time.

Thus has he behav'd, during the four Years and a half we have been together. Laugh'd in my Face whenever I reproach'd him of his broken Vows; telling me, I was too fine a Girl to be loſt, for want of a few Oaths. The Wench that waited on me, is now become chiefly my only Companion. She has often been Witneſs of the ſilent Tears that have dropt from my Eyes. On obſerving her weeping one Day, I imagin'd it was in compaſſion to my Sufferings; and enquiring the Cauſe, found it really ſo. She beg'd to be inform'd, by what means I was betray'd, for betray'd ſhe was ſure I was, into my Lord's Clutches. And on hearing the ſame, as you have juſt now done, ſhe claſp'd her Hands, and cry'd, Oh Madam, I pity you, from the bottom of my Soul, and that you may be

no longer deceiv'd by a Monſter of Infidelity, I will diſcloſe all I know.

Firſt then with ſhame I acknowledge, that he debauch'd me, while a Servant at his Father's, by a Stratagem unworthy the moſt abandon'd of his Sex. The manner how, I ſhall paſs over, and proceed to inform you, that you are not the Firſt, nor only young Lady he has ruin'd, under the ſame Pretences. He has two now in ſeparate Lodgings, in different Parts of the Town. I have ſeen them both, yet have, for neither, the Pity or Compaſſion I have for you; as they are older, and might reaſonably have judg'd he had no Intentions of marrying them: A third, of which he ſeem'd extremely fond, is, as his Man told me, lately return'd to her Friends.

Theſe, Madam, are only ſome of the Exploits of this faithleſs Man, who cannot ſee a Woman tolerably handſome, either Maid, Widow, or Wife, without making diſhoneſt Attempts upon her Virtue; and his profuſe Generoſity on thoſe Occaſions, together with his Quality,

genteel

genteel Addreſs, agreeable Perſon, and ſprightly Converſation, ſeldom fail of ſucceeding to the utter Ruin of as many of our Sex, as unhappily fall in his Way. I know not what, a ſort of fear I ſhou'd make you uneaſy, prevented this Information long ago. I have now eas'd my Mind, and whatever Reſolution you ſhall think fit to take on this Diſcovery, aſſuredly depend on my Secrecy and beſt Service therein.

I ſtood motionleſs, like a condemned Criminal, without being able to reſolve on any Thing, when that inſtant he came in, and the Sight of my falſe Undoer, awakened my Soul out of its Lethargy: I became all Fury; a Thouſand agoniſing Paſſions diſtracting my Brain at once. I charg'd him with Perfidy to me, and whatever elſe I had heard; he gave me a patient Hearing, when with a Countenance quite compos'd, he had the Barbarity to own theſe Truths, without any Apology, or ſhowing the leaſt ſenſe of Shame or Concern; on the contrary, he gloried in the Conqueſts

he had made, declaring that Love and Intrigue were the only Buſineſs of his Life; that the generous, general Paſſion he entertain'd for our whole Sex, preſerv'd him from dull Conſtancy, and fixt him in a firm Reſolution never to part with his dear Liberty.

This Diſcourſe, dear Sir, which happened Yeſterday, and his mean, unkind Offer to Day, are ſurely ſufficient to convince you, how vain and impracticable your intended good Offices wou'd prove: But was it poſſible they cou'd prevail, his cruel Treatment and Ingratitude has ſo alienated my Heart from him, that I ſolemnly vow, I had rather beg my Bread from Door to Door, than become his Wife, or ever paſs another Night with him.

Then falling at my Huſband's Knees, ſhe conjur'd him not to abandon her, implor'd him that very Night, to convey her to ſome Place of Safety, out of the Reach of a vile Monſter ſhe ſo much abhorred, and fix her where ſhe migh tbe in a Condition of ſeeing her dear Grandmother, of whoſe Forgiveneſs ſhe did not

deſpair.

deſpair. She obſerv'd, ſhe ſaid, the Humanity, good Nature and Compaſſion, which had appear'd in his Looks, Words and Actions, flatter'd her into a Belief of his being too much of the Gentleman, to deny her earneſt Requeſt; that it would ſoon be in her Power to repay any preſent Expence that might accrue on her Account, and imprint an everlaſting Obligation on a Heart, tho' oppreſs'd with Grief, endued with the ſublimeſt Sentiments of Gratitude.

This artful Harangue, heightened with a flood of Crocodile Tears, ſo poſſeſs'd poor Mr. *Vanmine* in her Favour (tho' every Syllable ſhe utter'd, was as falſe and deluſive as herſelf) and he was ſo affected thereby, that without Heſitation, he declar'd his Purſe and Services were at her Diſpoſal; but was quite at a loſs to think, how he cou'd properly diſpoſe of her, on ſo ſhort a Warning. She reply'd, that his Goodneſs exceeded all Bounds; that a Dungeon wou'd be infinitely preferable to the Place ſhe was in; intimating, ſhe cou'd be content with a

Bed in an Inn, provided he would remain at the ſame, 'till the Morning, to prevent any Inſults ſhe might poſſibly meet with there. But he propoſing a Bagnio, as a Houſe of better Accommodation, 'twas agreed on, and a Coach was immediately ſent for; and in the mean Time, ſhe ty'd up ſome Things in a Handkerchief, left Orders with the Maid to remain at the Lodgings, 'till ſhe ſhou'd ſend for her, and her Portmanteau together.

As ſoon as they arrived at the Bagnio an elegant Supper was beſpoke. *Burgundy* and *Champaign* went merrily about; Madam was as blithe and gay as a Bird eſcap'd the Cage, and both elevated to ſuch a Degree, that ſhe made no Scruple, on preſence of Joy at her Deliverance, of going to bed with him that very Night, exceſſively fond of each other. The following, likewiſe, was ſpent in a genteel Apartment, where he conducted her, and all Thought of returning to her Grandmother was now ſuſpended at his Requeſt. She declaring, by what had happened

happened already, he might visibly perceive that the Favours he had done her, made him an entire Master of her Destiny, to whom, she neither cou'd nor wou'd deny any Thing.

CHAP. IX.

THE great Conquest which Mr. *Vanmine* fancied his own Merit had made in the Breast of this seeming virtuous Lady, flattered him into an Opinion of having accomplish'd, what no other Man living cou'd have done; and pleas'd in deceiving himself, he drew a Draught on his Banker for one hundred Pounds, saying, that might supply present Exigencies; with Assurances of Support, becoming her Quality, and his Love; and that he wou'd wait on her the next Morning, to renew the Pleasures he had enjoy'd in the Embraces and Conversation of the most charming Woman living.

This was ſufficient to convince her, that he was ſecurely entangled in her Toils. She receiv'd the Preſent with uncommon Reluctancy, as fearing he might think her Views mercenary; which ſhe proteſted were ſo foreign from her Heart, that ſhe wou'd not accept of that, nor any other Favour, but on the ſpecial Condition of returning it again out of her own Fortune, as ſoon as ſhe came of Age, and ſhe confeſs'd his obliging Behaviour had baniſh'd all former Griefs, and found a Way to her Heart.

From this Period, to his total Ruin, about nine Months afterwards, ſhe had much more of his Company than I. It would be endleſs to relate the many Wiles made uſe of for that Purpoſe; firſt ſhe wheedled him into a Project of taking a Houſe in her own Name, and as he was too much infatuated to deny her any Thing, the profuſe Manner in which it was furniſh'd, coſt him above two Thouſand Pounds, Plate and Linnen included; beſides a Parcel of Pictures, by the beſt Flemiſh Maſters, valued at Fifteen hundred

dred Pounds, lately ſent by his Father to be diſpos'd of here.

Rich Jewels of great Price were frequently ſhew'd her, and he as conſtantly was perſuaded to purchaſe them, on pretence they were to be ſold for little more than half their Worth, and that he ſhou'd be honourably reimburſed before the Expiration of the Year.

He, firmly believing, what ſhe had often affirm'd, that ſhe wanted but ſeven Months of being at Age, and ſhou'd then be intitled to receive the Fifteen Thouſand Pounds left by her Father, while his Money or Credit laſted, ſhe never once fail'd in her deceitful Schemes. Theſe and many other Artifices ſhe uſed, to drain his Purſe, already exhauſted greatly, by conſiderable Sums lent to his Lordſhip, without any other Security than his Honour. The Money loſt with Sharpers, together with his own Extravagance, diſabled him from paying the Bills of Exchange drawn by his Father, and Correſpondents abroad; in whoſe Debt he got upwards of Twenty

thouſand Pounds, and likewiſe contracted many large ones with *London* Tradeſmen.

The foreign Bills being proteſted, blaſted his Credit, and brought all his home Creditors upom him. He was frequently arreſted unknown to me, neither had I any Notion of the Badneſs of his Circumſtances, 'till our Goods were taken in Execution, without leaving me a Bed to lie on, or any Thing elſe, but the Cloaths on my Back. My Huſband being abſent, when the Officers came in, their rude, and brutiſh Behaviour, obliged me to quit the Houſe, and I went to an old Servant of my Aunt's, who was married, and kept a Chandler's Shop. Her Huſband I ſent every where I cou'd think of, to find him, yet heard no Tidings for three Days, and on the Fourth, I was inform'd he had been ſurrender'd by his Bail to the *Fleet* Priſon, within an Hour after the Execution was ſerv'd. I went to ſee him with an aking Heart, and no Tongue can expreſs his dejected Condition. He was reading a Letter,

Letter, while the Tears ran, like a Torrent, from his Eyes; but on my entering the Room where he was, he slip'd it into his Pocket, put his Arms across his Breast, and turn'd from me without uttering a Syllable. At length he broke Silence, and ask'd if I was come to upbraid a Wretch that had ruin'd me and himself; that he was prepar'd for it, and I might begin as soon as I pleas'd.

My real Sorrow prevented an immediate Answer. I presently convinc'd him I had no such Intent; endeavouring, all in my Power, to administer Comfort. There is none for me, said he, on Earth, for the Letter you saw me reading, has bereft me of the last surviving Hope that was left—Here it is, you may peruse it; but first, I will confess to you my own Folly, and acquaint you with every Circumstance that has hurried me into the miserable State you now behold me in.

He then proceeded to relate the several Particulars I have already mention'd, add-

ing, that he had writ to all his pretended Friends, except my Lord: That ſome would not favour him with an Anſwer, and thoſe he had receiv'd from others, were filled with Ingratitude and Inhumanity; but this bad Woman's, added he, far exceeds them all. She came to ſee me the Day of my Commitment, I believe, with a Deſign of ſeeing whether ſhe cou'd make any more of me. And ſeeming greatly ſurpris'd to find all was gone, ſhe wept and bemoan'd my Misfortunes, in ſo tender a Manner, and with ſo many Proteſtations, and Aſſurances of ſupporting and extricating me out of them, that I abſolutely depended ſhe meant no leſs. On deſiring a preſent Supply (not having half a Crown left) to pay the Fees of the Priſon, ſhe pull'd out a Guinea, proteſting it was all ſhe had by her, but before the Week was out, wou'd convert Jewels, Plate, and every Thing into ready Money, for my Uſe.

In theſe falſe Hopes ſhe left me, and I heard no more from her, 'till the Receipt of

of the Letter in your Hand, which you may read. It was as follows:

'*My Dear* Vanmine,

'HEAVEN knows how much your Misfortunes affect my Peace of Mind; and as they ſeldom come alone, I am undone as well as you. My Houſe is rob'd, the Valuables carried off, and what remain'd, I have ſold to a Broker; which will be barely ſufficient to pay the Charge of my Journey to *Cornwall*; for which County I ſet out early this Morning, on receiving an Account of my Grandmother's Death, who I find has left her Eſtate, real and perſonal, to my Couſin, her Grandſon; on whom, if I can prevail to allow me ſome competent Maintenance, 'tis all I can expect; for, by the ſame Advice I am inform'd, that the Merchant in whoſe Hands my whole Fortune remain'd, is broke, and run away to *France*. Theſe heavy Loads of Ills, can proceed from no other Cauſe than Divine Vengeance, on

'our criminal Loves: Therefore, repent,
'as I do—Adieu, and never think more
'of the unhappy

VALERIA.

When I had read it out, he proceeded thus. Shame, Grief, and Diſappointment, at finding myſelf trick'd and cheated, by an infamous Woman, threw me into the Confuſion you obſerv'd, which was heightned to that Degree by your coming in, that I wou'd willingly have died that Inſtant, to avoid the Upbraidings of a Wife, I had ſo undeſervedly wrong'd and undone. Fly to your Aunt, who in Juſtice muſt ſupport you, who had ſtill been happy, had ſhe not forced you into a Match with the moſt unworthy Man living: Leave me to my Fate, and never enter theſe diſmal Walls again.

The ſudden Tranſition from Affluence to extream Poverty, quite overcame him. I uſed all the Arguments I was Miſtreſs of, to aſſuage the Violence

lence of his depreſſed Spirits, and gave Aſſurances of never abandoning him under his Calamities; that no Imprudencies whatſoever cou'd prevent my diſcharging the Duties I ow'd him as a Wife; declared I would take a Lodging near the Priſon, and by the Labour of my Hands, endeavour to provide a Maintenance for us both; but my firſt Care ſhould be, to procure a Sufficiency to pay his Fees, that he might obtain a Room.

He cry'd like a Child, ſaying, on leaving him, that my uncommon Kindneſs and Affection, had increas'd his Wretchedneſs. Pray, my Dear, ſaid he, go to my Lord, he is many hundred Pounds in my Debt, and has more Honour than to refuſe ſending me, if not all, at leaſt what he can ſpare, on being acquainted with my preſent Neceſſity. I went, in Hopes of ſucceeding, but how I was miſtaken, will appear by the brutal Treatment I receiv'd at his Houſe. After I had related my Huſband's Requeſt, and Misfortunes, ſhak-

ing

ing his Head, he reply'd, it was no more than what he had long expected; that no Perſuaſions of his, had been wanting to induce him to alter his expenſive Manner of Living; that as no Caution had been ſufficient to prevent his Ruin, he was of Opinion he deſerv'd no Pity; nor could either that, or Friendſhip, be expected from him, whoſe Openneſs of Heart, and Good-Nature, he had ſo egregiouſly abus'd, by ſeducing a young Woman, he ſo tenderly loved, and intended to marry, and whoſe Ruin now muſt inevitably be involv'd with his own.

As to Money Affairs between them, he ſaid, if there remain'd any Balance, due to my Huſband, when Accounts were ſettled, it ſhould be paid: Adding, it is for your Diſtreſſes alone, Madam, I am ſenſibly concerned; think no more of that worthleſs Man: Behold in me a ſincere Friend, and paſſionate Lover, that gladly would receive you with open Arms, as a dear Partner in my Bed and Fortune. Full of Anger and Reſentment, I flew from his deteſted Perſon, and

and Houſe. From thence I went directly to my Mantuamaker, who, on Recollection, had luckily my Wedding-Suit, and another rich one to alter, by which Accident they were preſerv'd.

At my Requeſt, they were diſpos'd of. I carried my Huſband the Money; and aſſur'd him, that nothing was to be expected from his Lordſhip (concealing the baſe Attempt on my Chaſtity, for fear of adding to the heavy Burden of Woes he already groan'd under). I then took a Lodging juſt by, at a worthy antient Widow's, who, by Misfortunes, was reduced to keep a ſmall School for Children, which was her chief Support. She help'd me to Needle-work, and I often aſſiſted her in the Buſineſs, on Occaſion of her Age, and other Infirmities. She made a Propoſal of taking me in as a Partner, which being agreed to, my Care and Induſtry procur'd us more Scholars, and my own Work, with the Profits of the School, enabled me to ſupport my Huſband tolerably well.

I never

I never miſs'd ſeeing him twice a Day; carrying his Dinner and Supper, conſtantly myſelf. He now ſeem'd pretty eaſy, and truly ſenſible of his Follies; and I dare avow, heartily repented of them. Our diſtreſs'd Circumſtances reaching my Aunt's Ears, produced a Letter from her, full of Tenderneſs and Regard for me; concluding with a peremptory Command to leave my Diſhoneſt, Villanous Huſband (as ſhe thought fit to ſtile him) and come immediately into *Cornwall*, in the Stage-Coach to her; vowing, in caſe of Refuſal, never to admit me again into her Preſence.

As I was before determin'd never to leave my Huſband, I return'd no Anſwer. In leſs than two Months afterwards, a Diſtemper that rag'd in the Gaol ſeized my Huſband, and tho' he neither wanted Care nor Aſſiſtance, yet in four Months more, he was thereby hurried to his Grave. I buried him with as much Decency as I could, ſhedding many diſconſolate Tears: And the Death

Death of my good Partner happening a few Days after that of my Husband, her Goods were sold, for the Benefit of her Executors, which oblig'd me to leave the House and School.

CHAP. X.

I Was now in a Way of Life not agreeable to me, but my Thoughts were humbled to my Condition. A creditable Service was now the Height of my Ambition; being young, able and willing to work for my Bread.

With this Design I went to Mrs. *Martin* (who, as I mention'd before, had liv'd many Years with my Aunt) and requested, that she wou'd endeavour to get me a Place, and accommodate me in the mean Time with a Lodging 'till one was provided, for which I was ready to pay. She receiv'd me with extream Kindness, and wou'd fain have prevail'd on me to make Application first to my Aunt, who, she told me, was lately come

come to Town, with her Son. I muſt own her former injurious Uſage, had rais'd a Reſentment uncommon in my Nature, and declar'd, that working honeſtly for my Living, was preferable in my Opinion, to any Obligation ſhe could beſtow. However, this did not prevent her waiting on my Aunt, and acquainting her with all that had befallen me, ſince Mr. *Vanmine*'s Misfortunes, as likewiſe of my preſent Intentions.

On Mrs. *Martin*'s Return from my Aunt, ſhe related the Affliction ſhe left her under on my Account; bewailing her having been the ſole Cauſe of my unhappy Situation; wiſhing a hundred Times, ſhe could recall the haſty Vow ſhe had made, of ſeeing me no more; but as that was vain, ſhe wou'd not add Crime to Crime, otherwiſe ſhe wou'd inſtantly fetch me home; bidding the good Woman aſſure me, that I was ſtill dear to her, and ſhou'd be handſomely provided for: And as an Inſtance of her Love, deſir'd ſhe would give me a Purſe, ſhe put into her Hands, in which

which were fifty Guineas; and that ſhe wou'd have me therewith provide myſelf with Neceſſaries becoming a Gentlewoman, in order to retire into what Part of the Country I pleas'd to board in; being ſatisfy'd, that many of the beſt Families wou'd be glad to entertain me as ſuch.

She farther promis'd, that her Attorney ſhould draw up a Settlement of ſixty Pounds a Year for my Life, which ſhe wou'd ſign, and ſend before I left the Town; and that proper Care ſhou'd be taken, to return the Money half-yearly wherever I ſettled. Theſe unrequeſted Acts of Generoſity and Goodneſs, entirely eradicated every Paſſion, but Love and Gratitude, from my Heart: And I was diſpleas'd at myſelf, for having entertain'd any other. I thankfully accepted her kind Offers, and requeſted the Favour of once again ſeeing my dear Couſin, before my Departure; this was refuſed, and a Charge given to him, on her Bleſſing, to the contrary, at the Time ſhe was ſo angry at my not obeying

ing her Commands, in leaving my Husband.

In a few Weeks, I was prepar'd to leave a Place where I had suffer'd so severely, and often consulted my prudent Landlady, on a Country to reside in; she being a *Berwick* Woman, gave such an agreeable Description of that Town, Hospitality of the Gentry, and general Civility of the Inhabitants about it, that I wish'd to be settled there: And the great Distance from *London* (which I never desired to see again) still increas'd my Desire of going thither, on Assurances that many good Families would gladly receive me for a Boarder; that her Brother was a Tradesman in the Town, and well known; and she was confident wou'd spare no Pains in seeing me fix'd to my Satisfaction.

I then sent her to inform my Aunt of my Readiness to obey her, and the Place I design'd to go to, if she had no Objection. She not having any, wish'd me a good Journey, desiring a large Portmanteau Trunk might be deliver'd

liver'd to me; only ſaying, it contain'd ſome Neceſſaries, and the Deed of Annuity ſhe had promiſed. In Truth, it was a Preſent worthy the generous Giver; On examining the Contents, I found the laſt, with Directions where to draw for my half-yearly Payments. In the ſame Box, was incloſ'd a Purſe of one hundred Guineas, a Gold Watch, Pearl Necklace, and Caſket of ſeveral Jewels, to the Amount, I believe, of one hundred more. Near is was a Bag of Needle-work, of my own doing, which contain'd a Coffee-Pot, Tea-pot, and ſeveral other ſmall Pieces of uſeful Plate; and another little Box, fill'd with fine *Flanders* Lace, the Value, tho' great, I did not know; the reſt of the Trunk was fill'd up with Silks, Hollands and Cambricks.

The Bounty of my dear Aunt was far above my Expectation or Deſire; but the Pleaſure I took in believing her Affection was not diminiſhed, exceeded any ariſing from the rich Preſent.

My

My kind Friend, Mrs. *Martin*, attended me to the Coach, and friendly Tears, on both Sides, were ſhed at parting. On my Arrival at *Berwick*, I found Mr. *Dekins*, her Brother, waiting to conduct me to his Houſe. He was a Man of fair Character, ſubſtantial, and deſervedly reſpected; the kind Recommendation his Siſter had given, occaſion'd his being over laviſh of his Praiſes, in my Behalf, and the whole Town, I believe, were acquainted with my coming and Intention.

That very Evening, I receiv'd a hearty Welcome into the Country, from moſt of the Ladies, by their Servants; with Enquiries, whether my Health, and the Fatigue of my Journey, wou'd permit them to pay their Compliments the next Morning. I return'd mine, with Acknowledgments for the Honour and Favour they intended. My Room by eleven o'Clock, appear'd a brilliant Aſſembly, of near twenty obliging Ladies of Fortune and Diſtinction, each congratulating my Arrival among them, and giving

giving me courteous Invitations to their Houſes.

One of the Company propoſed, to avoid Ceremony, or any Perplexity in returning my Viſits, that whoever had waited on me firſt, ſhou'd expect the firſt Return, and ſo on. This being generally approv'd, a Pen and Ink was brought, and they ſet their Names down in the Order they came, and left the Liſt; otherwiſe, as a Stranger, I ſhould have been extreamly embarraſs'd.

The two Mrs. *Richmores*, with Miſs *Maria Wilſon*, came before any of the reſt thither. I went the next Day to pay my Acknowledgements for the Honour they had done me, and was ſo charm'd with their kind Civilities, polite Behaviour, and diſintereſted Profeſſions of Friendſhip, that I gladly, and thankfully embraced the firſt Overture, they complaiſantly made, of accommodating me in their Family; and two Days afterwards, I remov'd to their Houſe, on Information my Apartment was ready.

They

They were all ſo good as to accompany me in their Coach in returning Viſits to the ſeveral Ladies. A pretty Boy, of the youngeſt *Richmores*, about three Years old, at firſt Sight grew ſo fond, and clung about me 'till Night, that it would have been barbarous not to have taken him for a Bedfellow, and he continued ſo as long as I ſtaid. Admiring the winning Behaviour of the Child, and Quickneſs of his Parts, I took Delight in forming his Mind, by inſtilling virtuous Principles; and may, without Vanity, confeſs (notwithſtanding his tender Years) I really believe he will be the better for it, as long as he lives.

Thus did I paſs two Years in the moſt agreeable Society, and in more Comfort and Pleaſure than I had ever enjoy'd before. The Regret with which I left my little *Bobby Richmore*, gave me equal Pain, to that I felt in parting from my good Friends.

Here Mrs. *Vanmine* ended, and how her Happineſs was interrupted, will be ſeen hereafter.

CHAP.

CHAP. XI.

WE ſhall now return to Sir *Robert Richmore*, who continued accumulating Eſtate after Eſtate; purchaſing whatever was to be ſold, in his own or the neighbouring Countries, and putting his Money out on Mortgages, wherever the Securities were approv'd. But as theſe Acquiſitions of Wealth rather increas'd than abated the Violence of his avaricious Temper, he loſt no Opportunity of gratifying that craving Paſſion, to the great Regret of his Lady, who frequently expoſtulated on his unreaſonable Frugality and Covetouſneſs; repreſenting, that the Largeneſs of their Poſſeſſions enabled them to live in the ſame Splendor and Affluence, which had always been worthily maintain'd in *Richmore Hall*, in his Anceſtors Days; and ſo far as his Power of doing Good exceeded theirs, he ſhou'd likewiſe exceed them in Acts of Benevolence and Charity, for which they were ſo juſtly eſteem'd and

belov'd; which wou'd be a Means of recovering the Reſpect and Good-will of the People, and of obtaining their Bleſſings, inſtead of their Curſes, which he well knew his Family were loaded withal; and many other Remonſtrances, to the ſame Purpoſe, but which were little regarded.

Lady *Richmore*, finding all Arguments ineffectual, apply'd a ſeparate Fortune, left by her Father's Will to her own Diſpoſal, to many commendable Uſes. The Table was more plentifully ſpread, and the Poor reliev'd with what was left; and as ſhe generally took Care of ſeeing it done herſelf, no real Object of Charity, that apply'd, ſcarce ever miſs'd a Bounty. The Converſation of Mrs. *Vanmine*, had greatly contributed to improve this Diſpoſition of doing Good; ſhe having always, from their firſt Acquaintance, at her Brother *Richmore*'s, paid a particular Deference to her Prudence and good Senſe.

Lady *Richmore* frequently endeavour'd to prevail on her to leave the People

where

where ſhe paid for her Board, to live with her as a Companion, who wou'd accept of no other Return, ſhe ſaid, but her Friendſhip. Mrs. *Vanmine*, however, civilly refuſs'd theſe Offers, declaring, the kind obliging Behaviour of thoſe Ladies, in taking her into their Houſe, on coming a Stranger into the Country, and their many friendly Offices afterwards, were Obligations never to be forgotten; nor cou'd any Conſideration induce her to leave ſuch valuable Friends, ſo long as her Company ſhou'd happily prove agreeable to them.

Yet a trifling Accident ſoon after depriv'd her of the agreeable Converſation of the two Mrs. *Richmores*, and Miſs *Maria Wilſon*, who likewiſe boarded there. No four Ladies ever paſs'd their Time more innocently cheerful; their Friendſhips were reciprocal, being founded on the firm Baſis of Honour and Virtue. The affable Behaviour of both the *Richmores*, who omitted nothing that cou'd either pleaſe or divert, added a Luſtre and Sprightlineſs to the whole.

Succeſs hitherto attended their induſtrious Toil, and plentifully increas'd the Stock of thoſe deſerving Merchants. No domeſtic jarrings enter'd their Dwellings; but Peace, Harmony, and Plenty abounded. The Eldeſt was bleſs'd with a Couple of fine Boys, and two Daughters, and the Younger, with one of each ſort.

We come now to the Cauſe that oblig'd Mrs. *Vanmine*, with Reluctancy, to deprive herſelf of the Pleaſures ſhe enjoy'd in the Society of her beloved Friends, by a Removal to the Widow *Yeomans*'s, ten Miles from the Town, to avoid the impudent and impertinent Addreſſes of Mr. *Jennings*, a rich, craz'd, and whimſical Alderman; who, notwithſtanding many Denials, pretended, tho' untruly, a ſolemn Promiſe of Marriage from her. This rude and ridiculous Behaviour had ſhut the *Richmores* Gates againſt him; yet he frequently poſted himſelf at the Door, or at the Publick-houſe which fronted, acquainting every one with his Paſſion, and her Breach of Promiſe, till at length, ſeveral began

to

to believe, and pity him. If ſhe went out, he would fall on his Knees, petitioning a Performance of her Vows. Nay, even the Church was no Aſylum, for he wou'd place himſelf there, in the next Pew, ſtand the whole Service, with his Arms acroſs, and Eyes fix'd full upon her, ſighing as if his Heart was breaking. Yet before ſhe had been ſix Months abſent, he married a Beggar-wench, for the Reſemblance he fancied to find between her and Miſtreſs *Vanmine*; and carried it ſo far, as to have her baptiz'd after her Name. The little Account ſhe cou'd give of herſelf, Parents, or Place of birth, in ſome meaſure, juſtified his making her a Chriſtian at any Rate.

In the frequent Viſits of the *Richmore* Family to Mrs. *Vanmine*, ſhe was ſtrongly ſolicited to return. The fatal Cataſtrophe that followed Sir *William Goodman*'s Marriage with Miſs *Maria Wilſon*, their Deaths, and the Infant Orphan's being brought to Mrs. *Yeomans*'s, were ſufficient Inducements, eſpecially the laſt, for Mrs. *Vanmine* to remain where

ſhe was, having, at the Arrival of the Child, taken it in her Arms, and vow'd it ſhould inherit the true affectionate Love ſhe bore the Mother. Mrs. *Yeomans*, ſaid ſhe, this dear Infant ſhall be my Charge, you ſhall have nothing to do with it, Sir *Robert*'s alone, may employ your care and Attention, for if Heaven ſpares my Life, I am determin'd in grateful Remembrance of it's worthy Parents, to uſe the ſame Love and Tenderneſs in bringing it up, as they would have done.

The Widow *Yeomans* was not diſpleas'd at having the Trouble taken off her Hands, while ſhe receiv'd a weekly Allowance for nurſing it, as alſo for a Daughter of Sir *Robert Richmore*'s, which, notwithſtanding it had the Appearance of a ſtrong healthy Child, a Fit in the Month ſuddenly carried it off. Mr. *William Richmore*, by Accident, having taken a Ride that Morning, to ſee Mrs. *Vanmine*, found her and Mrs. *Yeomans* in Tears, for the Death of his young Niece, and juſt going to procure a Meſſenger to carry home the unwelcome

News

News to Lady *Rich*
expreſſing his own C
for the Maid, and being
gone ſick to her Mother's,
fore, he haſtily demanded,
elſe had been in the Houſe ce the
Child had died, and being told none had,
deſir'd leave to diſcloſe ſome thoughts
which had inſtantly occur'd.—You both
know as well as I, continued he, the
Infidelity of my Brother to the Mo-
ther of this ſmiling Infant, and like-
wiſe that ſhe, and its good Father, were
depriv'd of Life in preſerving his.—
Thus robb'd of Parents and Fortune
on his Account, I hope you will join
with me in a pious Fraud.—Fraud I
ſhould not have call'd it, but an Act
of ſtrict Juſtice, to oblige him, by the
ſtrongeſt Ties of Nature, to perform his
Promiſe of becoming a Parent to this
Deſtitute Orphan. Be advis'd by me,
dreſs her immediately in the other's
Cloaths, and call her *Rickmore*; in ſhort
make her my Brother's Daughter. Hea-
ven is Witneſs of the Honeſty of my

Intention; and if there is any Injuſtice in deceiving him, that it proceeds from no other Cauſe, than the Fears we have reaſonable Grounds to ſuſpect of his abandoning her at laſt to Want and Miſery, from his too well known Covetouſneſs.

Mr. *Richmore* uſed many other Arguments to prevail on Mrs. *Vanmine*, who was utterly againſt it; ſhe declaring, however his Brother behaved, ſhe would ſtill act the Part of an indulgent Mother, nor ſhou'd it want, ſo long as ſhe had a bit of Bread to eat. However, in the End, both ſhe and Mrs. *Yeomans* were prevail'd on to conſent, in pure compaſſion to the Child, on the Conſideration of what might happen, in caſe of the Death of the former, and her Incapacity of providing a Maintenance after, as her whole Support was the afore-mention'd Annuity. He then left them with Cautions of Secreſy; promiſing on his Part, it ſhou'd remain the only one in the World he ever had, or wou'd conceal from his Wife; thinking it highly neceſſary to preſerve it among

among themſelves, and that no other Perſon, whatever, ſhou'd be acquainted therewith.

Accordingly, when Mrs. *Yeomans* informed Sir *Robert* of Miſs *Goodman*'s Death, he expreſs'd a real Sorrow; telling her of his Deſign of bringing up, and providing for that Infant, in the ſame ample manner, as his own Daughter, as he had unfortunately been the innocent Occaſion of the Loſs it ſuſtain'd. And neither he or his Lady, ever ſuſpected the Truth of her Information, not having once ſeen their new born Child, between that Time, and the Hour of its Birth. But the firſt Time of Lady *Richmore*'s going abroad, ſhe and her Huſband went to Mrs. *Yeomans*, for that Purpoſe; when they found it in the Arms of Mrs. *Vanmine*, who was in the Garden, kiſſing and dandling it, with the greateſt Pleaſure: As ſhe did not perceive them for ſome Time, they had an Opportunity of more particularly obſerving the Fondneſs and Tenderneſs of her Actions; when advan-

cing towards her, Lady *Richmore* eagerly embraced the Child, telling Mrs. *Vanmine*, at the ſame Time, ſhe was convinc'd, by what ſhe had ſeen, how infinitely ſhe was oblig'd to her Goodneſs, for the healthy Condition of her Daughter. But which, Mrs *Vanmine* politely gave the Merit of to the Nurſe's great Care; owning that her general Love of Children, induced her to render them all the Aſſiſtance in her Power.

In Converſation, Sir *Robert* told Mrs. *Vanmine*, he fear'd his Brothers wou'd ſuſtain a very great Loſs; they having, the Day before receiv'd Advice, that their Factor at *Legborn* had fail'd, who had upwards of ten thouſand Pounds of their Effects in his Hands, which they expected would have been return'd in a Veſſel they had ſent for that Purpoſe; that his Brother *Henry*, was gone Poſt to *London*, with an Intention of embarking for *Italy*, by the firſt Ship that ſail'd, in hopes (by ſome Hints he gave in his Letters) that his immediate Preſence there, might recover the greateſt Part, if

not

not all their Effects. This News grieved Mrs. *Vanmine* exceedingly, who was again intreated by her Ladyſhip to accompany her to *Richmore Hall*; offering on that Condition, to take the Child, and Mrs. *Yeomans* likewiſe, home: But ſhe modeſtly declin'd the Invitation; being of an Opinion, ſhe ſhou'd be more at Liberty of taking care of the darling Infant where ſhe was.

On their Departure, Lady *Richmore* promis'd to be a conſtant Viſitor; and as the Diſtance from their Houſe made it an agreeable Morning's Airing, one or both, ſeldom miſs'd going three or four Times a Week, during the five Years they continued there, or elſe ſending the Coach for them. Miſs *Maria*, who from a Month old, had been call'd *Eleanora*, grew a lovely Girl; and by the aſſiduous Care of her Education, became the Admiration of every Body; ſhewing a pregnancy of Wit, far ſuperior to her Age. She had been taught the *French* Tongue, from her firſt ſpeaking, equal to the *Engliſh*; converſing

in each, with the ſame Facility; tranſlating either, with a ſurpriſing Accuracy, in an intelligible Hand; before ſhe was ſix Years old, moſt childiſh Ideas were removed, and her Mind repleniſh'd with noble Sentiments, and virtuous Principles. In ſhort, Charity, Piety and Humanity, were inculcated ſo early, that they ſeem'd in her innate.

Lady *Richmore*, at laſt, hit on an effectual Way of getting Mrs. *Fanmine* to her Houſe. On a Morning Viſit, ſhe told her, ſhe cou'd no longer debar herſelf, and Sir *Robert*, the Pleaſure of having *Eleanora* home; that the Obligations ſhe lay under, on her Account, together with her uncommon Merit, ſhou'd make her Reception equal to that of a beloved Siſter, if ſhe wou'd condeſcend to honour her with accepting an Apartment at her Houſe; and altho' that Favour had been many times refus'd, ſhe had now Hopes of ſucceeding, if little *Eleanora* (who ſhou'd continue her Bedfellow) wou'd become an Advocate in her behalf. During theſe Words, the Child,

Child, with Tears in her Eyes, looking ſteadfaſtly in Mrs. *Vanmine*'s Face, more powerfully perſuaded, than all the Flouriſhes of Rhetoric cou'd have done; for without hesitating a Minute, that ſhe might not keep her favourite Pupil in Pain, ſhe agreed to her Ladyſhip's Propoſal, on Condition ſhe might remain independent, and pay for her Board. Lady *Richmore*, finding ſhe cou'd prevail with her on no other Terms, told her, that ſince ſhe would have it ſo, ſhe muſt acquieſce, ſince it was her chief Deſire, that in every Thing, ſhe ſhou'd do as ſhe plea'd; and accordingly, the next Day was appointed for their Removal.

When Lady *Richmore* was gone, Mrs. *Vanmine* repeated the Converſation, and the Reſolution ſhe had taken to the Widow *Yeomans*, aſking her whether ſhe intended to go to her Brother's; telling her that as he was lately become a Widower, and had ardently deſired her living with him, to take care of his Houſe, ſhe thought ſhe could not do better. Mrs *Yeomans* reply'd, that nothing prevented her

her accepting the firſt Offer, but the Conſideration of diſobliging her thereby; but *that* being now remov'd, ſhe wou'd forthwith comply with his Requeſt, and carry her Daughter, which was now all her Family, with her.

Lady *Richmore* came to Mrs. *Yeomans* before Noon, the next Day, and declared, ſhe wou'd not deprive herſelf of the Pleaſure of conducting them to *Richmore Hall*, and waited in the Coach while Mrs. *Vanmine* and *Eleanora* took a tender Leave of the Widow. On their Arrival, they were met by Sir *Robert* in the Court-Yard, who, after a civil Salute, gave Mrs. *Vanmine* the ſtrongeſt Aſſurances of the Satisfaction he enjoy'd in beholding her one of his Family. He then led her into the Appartment deſtin'd for her, which was not only the moſt commodious, but alſo the pleaſanteſt in the Houſe. Fronting, was a Garden, Park, and beautiful Canal of clear running Water, near a Mile long; and on each Side were pleaſant Walks, ſhaded by double Rows of lofty Lime-trees.

Lady

Lady *Richmore* endeavoured, by every Act of Kindneſs, Civility, and good Nature, to make Mrs. *Vanmine*'s Situation as pleaſant and comfortable as poſſible.

This generous Uſage confirmed her in an Opinion, ſhe had long entertained, that many excellent Qualities reſided in that Lady's Breaſt, altho' the Prejudice of Education had ſtifled ſome, and the Avariciouſneſs of Sir *Robert*, kept others dormant; and obſerv'd many amiable Improvements in her Diſpoſition, ſince their firſt Acquaintance, which, ſhe was of Opinion, wou'd at laſt break out into a bright Flame: From theſe Conſiderations, Reſpect increas'd, to the higheſt degree of Love and Friendſhip; her grateful Heart ran over, at the Obſervance of ſo happy a Proſpect, and ſhe determin'd to contribute her utmoſt Efforts to accompliſh ſo deſirable an End.

Mrs. *Vanmine*'s Goodneſs of Temper, made all Conditions of Life, if not eaſy, always tolerable; but ſhe was pleas'd with her

her preſent, more eſpecially as ſhe had the ſame Opportunity of cultivating the Mind of her dear *Eleanora*, who had never lain a Night from her, ſince ſhe was born, nor ſcarcely been out of her Sight. Young *Bob Richmore*, her little Favourite, being there alſo, heightened her Satisfaction, ſhe having conceiv'd a tender Love for him, from an Infant; and his to her, was no leſs affectionate than that of the moſt dutiful Child. As Sir *Robert*'s two Sons were much of his Age, a Tutor was kept in the Houſe for their Education, and *Bob Richmore* ſent for to be put alſo under his Care; his Uncle's deſign, therein, proceeding from Hopes that the Sweetneſs and Mildneſs of his Diſpoſition, wou'd correct the haughty Brutiſhneſs of his own Sons, and by degrees inſpire them with Thoughts of emulating him in Learning and Behaviour. But it happen'd quite otherwiſe, for they look'd on their Couſin with Contempt; and whoever commended his good Qualities, was ſure to incur their Diſpleaſure, ever afterwards. As he was no

Party

Party in their idle Diverſions, he ſpent moſt of his Time he was allow'd in Mrs. *Vanmine*'s Apartment. She ſoon found, by the Progreſs he had made in his Learning, that it was more owing to his own Parts and Ingenuity, than to the Care, or Capacity of his Maſter; for ſhe obſerv'd, tho' he was pretty far advanced, and by the Help of a good Memory, retain'd what he had learnt, yet he was very deficient, in many Fundamentals.

What had been totally omitted, ſhe ſupply'd. Falſe Notions in ſeveral Authors, were firſt remov'd, and then gave him rational Ones, of the true Meaning of each. By her daily Inſtructions, he perceiv'd how much he profited, and acknowledg'd, he was more indebted to her, for his Improvement, than to all the Maſters he ever had. Miſs *Eleanora*, in ſomething more than two Years from her coming home, by her Docility, and Mrs. *Vanmine*'s conciſe Manner of Teaching, became almoſt as much Miſtreſs of the *Latin* Grammar

as

as ſhe was before, of the *French*; and, by frequent Tranſlations (in which ſhe was conſtantly employ'd) of rendering *Engliſh* into *Latin*, the *Latin* into *French*, and the *French* again into *Engliſh*, ſhe perfectly underſtood them all, before ſhe entered her twelfth Year.

Bob Richmore, Miſs *Eleanora* call'd her Scholar, having taken him under her Tuition, to teach him *French*; and tho' Mrs. *Vanmine* ſometimes aſſiſted, left the chief Management to her; pleas'd to ſee the prudent and diſcreet Methods ſhe us'd in acquainting him with the Rudiments, and Idioms of that Language; and ſucceeded ſo well, that in a few Months, he was enabled not only to read their Authors, but to join in all the Converſations they had in that Tongue. The Sympathy of their Minds, created a Friendſhip and Fondneſs, hard to be defined; the Abſence of either caus'd an Uneaſineſs in both, and as their chief Happineſs was centred in each other, they ſeldom were divided. Miſs *Eleanora* often griev'd at the ſavage Diſpoſition of her ſuppoſed Bro-

Brothers, whom ſhe ſeldom ſaw but at Meals; and even then they could not forbear plainly ſhowing their Malice againſt their Couſin, and how much they deſpiſed and hated Mrs. *Vanmine* and their Siſter, for the Intimacy they obſerv'd between them: Nay Plots were often form'd, to ruin his Credit in the Family, which always ended in a Detection of their malicious Deſigns, and his Innocency; but at laſt they openly declar'd, that they wou'd no longer live in the Houſe with him, and that their Father might take his Choice which he wou'd part with.

Poor *Bob*, ſeeing all Efforts vain and ineffectual to gain their Love, even by the moſt obliging Means, writ home, to be taken from thence, which he would have done long before, wou'd it not have depriv'd him of ſeeing and converſing with his dear Couſin. The Regret in Parting, was equally felt in the Breaſts of both; and ſure, the virtuous Seeds of conſtant Love, were then planted in their tender Hearts, that ſo eminently

nently bloom'd and flouriſhed ever after. Sir *Robert*, and his Lady, were concern'd at the Diſagreement of their Nephew and Children, and notwithſtanding the Partiality of Parents, blam'd the Miſconduct of their own Sons, who were tranſported with Joy at his Departure.

Reſtraint ſoon grew irkſome to Sir *Robert*'s Sons; they made no Advancement in Learning, and even forgetting the little they had, while their deſpiſed Couſin was qualifying himſelf for the Univerſity, at the great Free-School at *Berwick*; correſponding conſtantly with *Eleanora*, and Mrs. *Vanmine* in *French*, and taking every Opportunity of Holy-Days, or breaking-up Times, of ſeeing them and his Aunt; but if by chance he met his Couſins, they would hardly return an Anſwer to his civil Salutes. Hunting, Courſing, Cocking, and Horſe-Races, engaged their Attention: And when they could not enjoy theſe, they would deſcend to join with the loweſt Company, in their loweſt Recreations. In which their Tutor, inſtead of

doing

doing his Duty, encourag'd them, and was their conſtant Companion. He had been expell'd the College for Irregularities, yet clandeſtinely obtain'd Orders, and was a young Fellow of bad Morals, and diſſolute Life, wholly unfit for the Education of Youth, and ſo addicted to Sotting, that he was ſeldom ſober, and wou'd often bring his Pupils home in the ſame drunken Condition with himſelf.

Lady *Richmore* ſaw ſome of theſe Enormities, but finding her Admonitions little regarded, deſir'd Sir *Robert* to ſpare no Correction to reform their Manners, but he was too much buſied in his worldly Affairs to take the good Advice, 'till it was too late. His Head was continually running on Purchaces, Mortgages, and other Money Affairs. When he went abroad, it was to look after his Tenants, and when he ſtay'd at Home, he chiefly confin'd himſelf to his cloſet, poring over his Accounts. It was this Inattention to his Family, which occaſion'd the aforemention'd Irregu-

regularities in his Sons. Sometimes indeed, as an Encouragement, he wou'd promiſe to make them the richeſt Commoners in *England*; provided they wou'd apply themſelves cloſely to their proper Studies; but they minded not a Word he ſaid, thinking themſelves wiſe and learned enough, to ſpend the vaſt Wealth he poſſeſs'd, when it came to their Hands, and thought the ſooner that happen'd the better.

Sir *Robert* ſaw few Faults, for the daily Complaints he receiv'd of the Rudeneſs, Debauchery, and Immorality of their Lives, were call'd youthful Gaieties, which wou'd wear off when they grew older: So that he gave little or no Check to their vicious Courſes; pleaſing himſelf in contemplating how rich and happy he ſhou'd leave them.

On the contrary, *Eleanora*, under the judicious Auſpices of her excellent Tu-toreſs, acquir'd every commendable Accompliſhment. Mrs. *Vanmine* obſerving her agreeable Voice, and early Taſte for Muſick, ſpar'd no Pains in improving

ing both; and altho' the ſtudy of that heavenly Science, is attended with Difficulties to the young Beginner, the eaſy Manner in which *Eleanora* attain'd a thorough Knowledge of it, is a Proof, that nothing is too hard to be overcome by aſſiduous Application and Ingenuity.

The harmonious Lyre of *Orpheus* muſt have been ſilent when ſhe touch'd her melodious Lute, and join'd the Sweetneſs of her Voice thereto; all Hearers, went away raviſh'd with the Melody of her Performance on that Inſtrument, as well as on that of a ſweet-ton'd *Italian* Virginal, which had been long in the Family. Juſtneſs of Time, and inimitable Action, conſtantly inſpir'd the higheſt Pleaſure and Admiration. Nor did ſhe leſs excel in every other Perfection: All were too lovely to deſcribe, without running into a romantic Strain. Let it ſuffice therefore, to ſay, ſhe was pious and virtuous, without Sourneſs or Pride; learned, without Oſtentation; good-humour'd,

without

without Levity; beautiful, without knowing it; and humble and courteous, without Affectation. It is no wonder theſe amiable Qualifications procur'd the Love and Eſteem of every Body; and the Contraſt was ſo great between her and her Brothers, that 'tis a Queſtion, whether a Parent cou'd receive more Pleaſure from the Goodneſs of the one, than Pain from the Diſſoluteneſs of the others. Lady *Richmore*'s only Conſolation and Happineſs, conſiſted in the agreeable Company and Converſation of her Daughter, and Mrs. *Vanmine*; for Money and Buſineſs employ'd as much of her Huſband's Time, as Extravagancies and Pleaſures did that of her Sons.

CHAP. XII.

BOB Richmore, in his ſixteenth Year, was ſent to *Merton* College in *Oxford*; where his great Parts, ſound Learning, and modeſt Behaviour, procur'd

cur'd him the Eſteem and Countenance of ſome of the moſt ingenious Gentlemen in the Univerſity. His Sobriety and Application to his Studies, was exceeded by none; and the only Uneaſineſs he labour'd under, was, that the great Diſtance between him and his dear *Eleanora* (who had juſt entered her Teens) depriv'd him of the Pleaſure of ſeeing and converſing with the moſt lovely and worthieſt of her Sex, whom he ador'd with a Flame purely celeſtial, unſtain'd with any corporeal Ideas. It was divine Love and Friendſhip of each other's Souls, to that Degree, that either being happy or miſerable, reflected the ſame Idea on the other's Mind, as truly as does the Mirrour the Object preſented before it. The Letters which weekly paſs'd between them, were alternately writ in *Latin* and *French*; the Loſs of which valuable Collection, by various Accidents, is a real Misfortune to the Publick, as they contain'd the higheſt Sentiments of Love and Friendſhip, Honour and Virtue; each being enforc'd

with nervous Arguments, Propriety of Language and Elegance of Style; the Peruſal whereof, cou'd not have fail'd of inſpiring the moſt abandon'd to become Proſelytes to Virtues ſo truly ſublime.

I ſhall leave him now to purſue his Studies in College, to relate ſome Tranſactions that happen'd in his Abſence from Home. Mr. *Richmore*'s Family grew very uneaſy at not hearing from Mr. *Henry*; altho' it was full ſeven Months ſince he ſet out for *Italy*. That, and the Death of one of his Sons, threw his Wife into a ſevere Affliction. On this mournful Occaſion, Mrs. *Vanmine* and *Eleanora* frequently went to their Houſe to condole and adminiſter Comfort. In one of their Viſits they found her in higher Spirits than they expected, and reading a Letter which ſhe had that Morning receiv'd from her Huſband, wherein ſhe was aſſur'd of his being in perfect Health, and was preparing for a ſpeedy Return, with a valuable Cargo, having fortunately recover'd his whole

Ef-

Effects at *Legborn*; concluding with many dear Expreſſions of Love and Affection to her and their Children.

His Brother had others from him, concerning their mercantile Affairs, with Advice of conſiderable Bills of Exchange he had drawn for Goods bought, and Aſſurances made on the Ship and Cargo, to the Amount of near four thouſand Pounds, propoſing to embark on Board of her for *England* in ten Days, not doubting but the Profits ariſing from the Voyage wou'd fully recompence the Expence and Trouble ſuſtained by the Failure of their Factor.

This welcome News a little elevated Mrs. *Richmore*'s depreſs'd Spirits, tho' the Loſs of her Son hung heavy upon her; but the pleaſing Hopes of the ſafe and ſpeedy Return of her Huſband, lull'd her Grief aſleep, for ſome Time.

O Hope, thou falſe Flatterer of the Wretched, how vain and deluding is all thy Comfort! The Truth of which was fatally evinc'd too ſoon, by her only

ſurviving Son's dying ſuddenly, in leſs than three Months after the other. Unhappy, tender Mother! What weight of Woes muſt you bear, for the Loſs of two hopeful Youths! Yet theſe were no more than preparatory to the ſtill greater. Her Eyes ſtill wet with the Tears which had bedew'd her Son's Grave, on return from thence, were again call'd upon to flow in never-ceaſing Streams, by the arrival of a Packet of Letters to her Brother, with the melancholy Account of her Huſband's Shipwreck, five Days after leaving Port; in which he, and all on board, periſhed on the Coaſt of *Spain*. All was too circumſtantial and authentic, to leave the leaſt Room to doubt of the Truth of this Advice; and to add to her Grief, ſhe was inform'd that the faithleſs *Jews*, who had inſur'd Ship and Cargo, no ſooner heard of her Loſs, but they left *Leghorn*, and retir'd to *Barbary*, where no Laws could compel a Performance of Covenants.

Over-

Overwhelmed with these dire Misfortunes, no Tongue can express her Sufferings. As Words would fall short of doing it equal to her Sorrows, I had much rather leave it to the Reader's Imagination, than attempt a Description. Nor is it easy to paint those of his Brother, Sister, and mournful Family. The Loss in their Fortune, though great, was thought inconsiderable in comparison of such a Husband, Father and Brother; whose manly Virtues, conjugal Affections, sincere Friendship, and Sweetness of Disposition, justly merited the utmost Love and Regard; nay the whole Town, as soon as the fatal News was known, bewail'd his Fate, with as much Concern, as if he had been their common Parent.

After a Year spent in disconsolate Mourning, the Widow intimated a Desire of separating Stock, and going to *London* with her two Daughters, an ancient Maiden Aunt having press'd her by many Letters so to do, in order to live with her; promising, on that Condition, to make them her sole Heiresses.

This Requeſt and Promiſe wou'd have been inſufficient to prevail on her to leave her Brother and Siſter, who earneſtly ſolicited her Stay, had ſhe not conceiv'd Hopes, that a Change of Place might in Time remove a Melancholy, which nothing elſe cou'd effect, ſo long as ſhe liv'd in a Town that continually brought to Remembrance her former Happineſs and late deplorable Loſs, declaring the Thoughts of them (ſince all her Joys were fled) inceſſantly prey'd upon her Spirits, without admitting any Interval of Reſt, Night or Day: Therefore they no longer oppos'd her Inclinations. Mr. *William Richmore* immediately ſet about ſettling their Accounts in Partnerſhip, and with an impartial Integrity, inform'd her, there were due to her from Stock, notwithſtanding the late Loſs, Twelve thouſand, eight hundred Pounds; that, indeed about five thouſand Pounds out of the Whole, conſiſted in Credit to divers Perſons, which ſhe wou'd perceive by the Duplicate of the Books; one of which he deliver'd, having prepar'd it

for

for her Satisfaction; giving Aſſurances of the little Aprehenſion he was under, that any conſiderable Part of that would be loſt.

He intimated to his Siſter, that the drawing, at once, her Share out of the Capital, wou'd lay him under Difficulties. She, knowing his Honeſty of Heart too well, to diſtruſt either the Juſtneſs of the Accounts, or Payment of the Money, reply'd, as ſhe had no preſent Occaſion, the Balance might lay in his Hands, as long as he thought proper, being convinc'd it was quite as ſafe as in her own. However, his nice Honour not being ſatisfy'd, that ſhe ſhou'd go out of Partnerſhip, without her full Dividend, he apply'd to his Brother, Sir *Robert*, produc'd his Books, and prevail'd on him (by offering the higheſt Security in the Law, together with a Mortgage, both of his own Eſtate and his Wife's Jointure, to which ſhe agreed) to advance a large Sum of Money. This he did unknown to his Siſter, and before ſhe left the Country, oblig'd her to receive her

full Share of the Joint-ſtock, except the Moiety of the Five thouſand Pounds in other Peoples Hands, with Promiſes of returning that, as it came in, which he punctually did.

Her Departure was attended with many Tears on both ſides, and a friendly, and loving Correſpondence ſubſiſted between them, as long as they liv'd. Mr. *William Richmore* continued to carry on Buſineſs by himſelf, with various Succeſs: Yet before his Son *Robert* had been three Years at the Univerſity, he ſuſtain'd ſo many, and great Loſſes, by Ships taken by the Enemy, and others, by Misfortune, caſt away; which, together with the Bankruptcy of ſeveral Traders in his Debt, render'd Supplies to his Son very inconvenient.

Theſe unhappy Changes in Mr. *Richmore*'s Circumſtances, induc'd his Son to apply to the Vice-Chancellor (of whom he deſervedly was a Favourite) for the obtaining a Degree for a Tutorage. The Vice-Chancellor, accordingly

dingly recommended him to that of a young Nobleman, juſt enter'd of the ſame College, whoſe Education had been too much neglected, on Account of the Tenderneſs of his Conſtitution, in ſo much that the Tutor was younger than the Student.

As the young Gentleman was endowed with a good Underſtanding, and willing to improve, young *Richmore* took a particular Pleaſure in inſtructing him in all Branches of Literature he was Maſter of, without dogmatical Pride, or Appearance of Pedantry, too often met with in Perſons of that Claſs. They delighted in each other's Company, and ſoon commenc'd a ſtrict Friendſhip as Brother Students. The Title of Tutor was quite laid aſide, at the Requeſt of young *Richmore*, and as they were ſeldom aſunder, their Friends and Purſe were in common between them.

The Duke, Father to the young Gentleman, thought he cou'd never be grateful enough to the Perſon whoſe

Diligence, Care, and Capacity had ſo eminently appear'd in the Improvements his Son had made in his Studies; ſo that in the ſpace of one Year, his Bounty had enabled the Tutor to live as a Gentleman, without the uſual Allowance from home, tho' Money was what he ever deſpis'd, in any other Light than providing for the decent Neceſſaries of Life, which he was pleas'd he cou'd now procure by his own Induſtry, without being a Burden to his Father. The cloſe Attendance he was oblig'd to give his Charge, and the Duke often inſiſting on his ſpending the Vacation at his Houſe, ſeldom allow'd him Time to viſit *Berwick*. This, and the ſucceſſive Misfortunes of his Family, gave him great Anxiety, as it depriv'd him of Opportunities of comforting and condoling with them; and likewiſe of ſeeing his dear *Eleanora*, who had already complained in her Letters of his long Abſence.

When he had prevail'd on the Duke, at whoſe Houſe he then was, to furniſh

niſh him with a Horſe, and Permiſſion to viſit *Berwick*, on Account of an Indiſpoſition his Father and Mother labour'd under; unluckily, the Day he was to have ſet out, that Nobleman receiv'd Advice that his Brother, then at *Aix-la-Chapelle*, was given over by his Phyſicians; requeſting, that if his Nephew, the young Lord, had any Regard to the earneſt Intreaties of a dying Uncle, who dearly lov'd him, he wou'd uſe the utmoſt Expedition in coming thither.

He read the Letter aloud to his Son, before the Dutcheſs and *Richmore*, when the young Lord expreſs'd an Eagerneſs to take Horſe inſtantly, which was approv'd of by the Duke and Dutcheſs, who at the ſame Time intimated, that they had Hopes, from their good Opinion of Mr. *Richmore*, he wou'd not refuſe to accompany their Son on this Emergency; aſſuring him that the Prudence and Diſcretion of ſuch a Companion wou'd give them the higheſt Satisfaction. He modeſtly, tho' with Re-

luctance, conſented, while the Coach was getting ready to carry them about fifteen Miles, where they were to take Poſt-Horſes, and where a Servant was immediately diſpatch'd, to get them ready, who carried a ſmall Cloak-Bag, with Linnen, and was to attend the Journey.

The Duke and Dutcheſs took my Lord into another Room; in the mean Time, young *Richmore* wrote two ſhort Letters to his Father and *Eleanora*; acquainting them with the Neceſſity of his being oblig'd to poſtpone the Pleaſure he had propos'd to himſelf, of ſeeing them and his Friends at *Berwick*, 'till his Return. By what Accident they miſcarried is uncertain, but neither of them came to hand. *Eleanora* was ſo uneaſy, at the ſuppos'd Silence of her affectionate Couſin, whom ſhe expected every Day, that ſhe cou'd neither eat, nor ſleep. A thouſand tender Fears poſſeſs'd her Breaſt: She wou'd have concluded ſome fatal Accident had happen'd on the Road, 'till Mrs. *Vanmine*,

ſeldom

ſeldom miſtaken, perſuaded her, it muſt be owing to Miſcarriage of Letters; and of which they were convinc'd, by one they receiv'd the following Week, from *Calais*, giving an Account of his Arrival at that Town, after a pleaſant Paſſage. He took Notice that his Stay in *France* wou'd be too ſhort, for her Anſwer to meet him there, therefore muſt deprive himſelf of the Hope of expecting any, tho' he wou'd not fail of writing again, the Moment he alighted at *Aix-la-Chapelle*, which was to be the fartheſt Extent, he ſaid, of their Travels.

On their Arrival there, they found the young Lord's Uncle alive, but in ſo decayed a State, it was next to an Impoſſibility he cou'd ſurvive many Hours. A ſerene Joy, ſurpaſſing Deſcription, appear'd in the Uncle's Countenance, at the Sight of his Nephew. He hug'd and embrac'd him in his feeble Arms; ſaying, My dear Nephew, I want Words to expreſs how kindly I take your coming, thus far, to cloſe my Eyes! On obſerving

obſerving a Flow of Tears, from the young Lord's, he greatly reprov'd him, declaring, the near Approach of Death, had nothing dreadful in it, as he had the Satisfaction of a Conſcience void of Offence, which adminiſtered more Comfort than all the Cordials in the World. Then making a Motion to be left alone with his Nephew, which he was, near an Hour, he laid down a certain Rule of Life, which he admoniſhed him to follow; beautifully painting the Advantages of an honeſt and virtuous Behaviour here, in the moſt amiable Colours, and the Unhappineſs and Trouble that conſtantly attend the contrary.

He then gave him the Key of a ſtrong Box, ſaying, he wou'd find his Will there; and likewiſe a Paper, directing how his Body was to be diſpos'd of, for all his worldly Affairs, he ſaid, had been long ſettled; and with an affectionate Embrace, inſiſted on his Nephew's retiring to repoſe himſelf, after his fatiguing Journey, deſiring only to ſee him early in the Morning. My Lord, with great

great Reluctancy obey'd, tho' ſcarcely able to hold up his Head. *Richmore* cou'd not perſuade him to go Bed, but he threw himſelf upon it in his Cloaths, that he might be ready when call'd, if his Uncle ſhou'd be worſe, having left Orders for that Purpoſe.

Altho' his Uncle had a very bad Night, he wou'd not ſuffer him to be diſturb'd; however, he was pleas'd at ſeeing him in his Chamber before Day. As he found his Death approaching, and the Agonies of it, attended with a Shortneſs of Breath, and Hickup, tho' his Senſes remain'd perfect to the laſt, he took a ſmiling Adieu of his Nephew, and all preſent; ſaying in particular to him, that he had nothing more to recommend to him, but a due Obſervance of the Advice already given, which he hoped he wou'd religiouſly follow; as the Remembrance of a Life well ſpent, was the beſt and only Support to the Soul, in the awful Moment of its Separation from the Body. Soon after he

calmly

calmly ſurrender'd up his Breath, without a Groan or Struggle.

With real Concern, the young Lord acquainted his Father thereof; and the Preparations making for bringing his Body to *England*, according to his Directions. *Richmore* likewiſe wrote home to the ſame Effect; which prevented his hearing from thence, of the Increaſe of his Father's and Mother's Illneſs, whom he had left three Months before, in a very declining State of Health. It is not to be doubted, but that the ſucceſſive Misfortunes, which had happen'd in Trade, together with the Thoughts of leaving a Son and Daughter, ſlenderly provided for, might add to the Violence of a Conſumption, that attack'd them both at the ſame Time, and with ſuch Rapidity, as hurried them to their Graves, before his wiſh'd Return.

The young Nobleman, with *Richmore*, were almoſt ready to depart with the Corps to *England*, which they had determin'd to attend, when the former was taken ill with the Small-Pox. This unfortu-

unfortunate Event detain'd them in *France:* But the Phyſicians declaring it to be of the favourable Sort, immediate Notice was ſent thereof, to the Duke, with Aſſurances from *Richmore*, that every Poſt ſhou'd carry with it freſh Accounts, promiſing never to leave the Room, while his young Lord continued in it. Other Diſpatches he ſent to his own Family, and to *Eleanora*, deſiring to hear of all their Welfares, during his unlucky Detention in *France*. My Lord paſs'd ſeven Days, without the leaſt bad Symptom, during which, a Pallet-bed was brought into his Chamber, whereon *Richmore*, and the old Servant, who attended them, lay down by turns, and one, or the other, conſtantly gave him the Medicines preſcrib'd, fearing a Negligence or Omiſſion in the two Nurſes. His Lordſhip remain'd chearful 'till the eighth Day in the Evening, when he complain'd of a Sickneſs at his Stomach, tho' the Doctors gave Aſſurances the worſt was over, and that he was out of Danger; yet in Spite of their Skill,

and

and conſtant Attendance, he was ſeiz'd with a raging Fever, and died the ninth at Night, delirious.

The Grief and Concern, for the Loſs of this promiſing young Nobleman, engroſs'd all *Richmore*'s Sorrow. The next Day produc'd a freſh Cauſe, of an infinite deal more, by receiving a Letter from *Truſty*, by his Father's Direction (who was too weak to write himſelf) importing, that both him and his Mother, in the ſame Sick-bed, were paſs'd all Hopes of Recovery; and ardently wiſh'd for a dying Embrace from their dear Son; but as they fear'd the Omnipotent had otherwiſe ordain'd, they had taken this Way of tranſmitting their lateſt Bleſſings.

He had others from *Eleanora* and Mrs. *Vanmine*, confirming the melancholy Account, and which were calculated to prepare him for the inevitable Loſs they fear'd he wou'd ſoon ſuffer. Putting him in Mind, that the Diſpenſations of Providence muſt be ſubmitted to, without repining, and uſing many

ny other Arguments, to arm him againſt the worſt Event; concluding, as his Lordſhip was in a fair way of Recovery, they hoped they ſhou'd ſoon ſee him at *Berwick*.

Tho' he receiv'd Conſolation from his dear *Eleanora*, he was impatient to throw himſelf at the Feet of his beloved Parents. He therefore told my Lord's Servant, the indiſpenſible Neceſſity of making the beſt of his Way home; and hop'd, as he had been an Eye-witneſs of his Behaviour, he wou'd do him that Juſtice to the Duke and Dutcheſs, to own, that no Care of his had been wanting, in his Lord's Illneſs, acquainting him, that they would receive the fatal News of his Death, by the Advice he had already ſent: That as the only Care, which remain'd now, was of conveying the Bodies decently to *England*, he was convinc'd his Prudence wou'd direct it to be done in a ſuitable Manner; and deſired, he wou'd take the Charge, and follow ſuch Inſtructions as the Duke ſhou'd ſend, for ſo doing.

The

The next Morning, Mr. *Richmore* took Poſt, travelling Day and Night, 'till he reach'd *Calais*; where, to his great Mortification, he was delay'd ſeveral Days, by contrary Winds and tempeſtuous Weather, which prevented all Veſſels from attempting to put to Sea, from thence, tho' many had arriv'd from *Dover* in that Time; in one of which, he receiv'd another Letter from *Truſty*, with the afflicting Confirmation of the Deceaſe of his Father and Mother, within a few Hours of each other; as alſo an Account of the Cruelty of his Uncle, Sir *Robert*, who, he ſaid, had ſeiz'd on all their Effects, while they lay dead in the Houſe, except three hundred Pounds in Caſh, which he had found Means of preſerving from him; and that he had brought his Siſter to her Aunt's in *London*, at her Requeſt, where he would likewiſe ſtay 'till his Arrival; Therefore deſir'd he would come directly there, on his Landing, to be more particularly informed of his Affairs.

He

He had others, of Condolance, from *Eleanora* and Mrs. *Vannine*, having taken Care to ſtop his Letters, at the Poſt-houſe, which were directed to *Aix-la-Chapelle*. The Weather growing more calm, a Packet ſail'd, in which he took a Paſſage, with a Heart overwhelm'd with Grief, and in a few Hours landed at *Dover*; from whence, proceeding directly to *London*, found his Aunt, Siſter, and Couſins, under the deepeſt Affliction. He mingled his Tears with theirs, for ſome Time, without ſpeaking, but at length, mainly Reaſon getting the Aſcendency, he embrac'd them all; declaring, as no Mortal cou'd be exempted from paying the ſame Debt of Nature, our Duty was to ſubmit patiently, without repining; then tenderly ſaluting them again, he retir'd with *Truſty*, who was preſent at the Interview, and ſhed Tear for Tear.

Mr. *Richmore* continued near two Hours with *Truſty*, in hearing a diſtinct Detail of paſt Events, relating to himſelf and Family. The frequent Viſits

of

of Lady *Richmore*, *Truſty* ſaid, and almoſt daily ones of *Eleanora* and Mrs. *Vannine*, was a great Comfort to his dear Maſter and Miſtreſs; but that Sir *Robert* came but once, during their long Illneſs. As he ended, he drew from his Pocket a Bill for the three hundred Pounds, which he had ſecreted from the knowledge of Sir *Robert*, as before mention'd, hoping, that wou'd enable him to purſue his Studies at *Oxford*, till Affairs could be ſettled with his Uncle *Richmore*. He told him alſo that he had a Packet, writ with his Father's own Hand, with four Seals, which his Maſter had expreſsly charg'd, ſhou'd not be delivered to him, till he was Twenty-one, and that he wou'd preſerve it for him 'till that Time, with the utmoſt Faithfulneſs, tho' he was an utter Stranger to the Contents of it.

He then inform'd him of his Intention of marrying the Widow *Yeomans*, whoſe Brother had left her, at his Death, poſſeſs'd of the *King's-Arms-Inn*, at *Berwick*, and that nothing had prevented his ſo doing,

doing, ſome Months before, by the Advice of his dear Maſter and Miſtreſs, but their ſevere Illneſs; nor wou'd he now leave him, on any Conſideration, if he, or what little he had honeſtly got, in long Service, cou'd be of real Uſe to him.

Mr. *Richmore* thank'd him, and declar'd he ſhou'd always eſteem him as a beloved Friend, and advis'd him to return, and not loſe an Opportunity of ſettling himſelf in a Way of Life, wherein he might get a comfortable Subſiſtence; ſince it evidently appear'd, it was not in his Power to provide for a Servant, whoſe Fidelity merited the higheſt Encouragement.

On his Return to the Ladies, he found his Siſter's Account corroborated with that he had heard already; but when ſhe came to deſcribe her Uncle's taking Poſſeſſion, in his own Perſon, without the leaſt Regard to Humanity, while his Brother's and Siſter's lifeleſs Bodies lay in the Houſe, her Paſſion was ſo violent, and her Anguiſh of Soul ſo great,

great, that ſhe curs'd him and his Iſſue, wiſhing that the ſame Barbarity, he had ſhewn on that Occaſion, might be meaſured ten-fold out to them.

Her Brother interrupted her, with a gentle Rebuke, for that direful Imprecation, and Want of Charity; ſaying, altho' he had as little Reaſon to be ſatisfied with his Uncle's Proceedings, he was far from joining in any Wiſh tending to his Deſtruction, much leſs to that of his innocent Iſſue. The Aunt, tho' ſhe blam'd her Niece's Raſhneſs, in ſome Meaſure endeavour'd to excuſe her, as having been an Eye-witneſs of that barbarous Action, at a Time when ſhe muſt have been under the moſt poignant Affliction. Miſs *Richmore* then own'd, that tho' ſhe had utter'd thoſe haſty Words, in her Paſſion, they were foreign from her ſobereſt Thoughts, and would willingly recall them.

The Converſation on that Point being dropt, Mrs. *Richmore* gave them kind Aſſurances of Love and Eſteem, proteſting, ſhe look'd on them as her Chil-

Children, and believed no Action of her Life, cou'd give them Cauſe to view her in any other Light than that of a tender Mother: That altho' their Father's Misfortunes had greatly reduc'd his Eſtate, they ſtill had a right to independent Fortunes. The *Blackland*-Farm, ſaid ſhe, which is worth upwards of one hundred and fifty Pounds a Year, is yours my dear Nephew, and two thouſand Pounds, part of my Siſter's Fortune, ſettled in truſt, belong to my Niece. My dear late Huſband's, and your Father's Settlements at Marriage, were drawn by the ſame Hand, and executed the ſame Day; in which it is ſaid, the two are exact Counterparts: So that if your Uncle ſhou'd be ſo unjuſt, as to ſecrete this Settlement, which I believe he has got in his Hands, the producing mine, will be a ſufficient Evidence, to recover your Rights when at Age. And in the mean Time, believe you are as much at home, as you wou'd have been in your dear Father's Houſe.—She receiv'd the dutiful Thanks of both, and the Pro-

miſes of an implicit Obedience to her Commands.

The next Day, *Truſty* return'd with the Letters to *Eleanora* and Mrs. *Vanſittart*, in which, *Richmora* laid his whole Soul open to their Views; letting them know, the Goodneſs, and Civility of his Aunt, oblig'd his Continuance ſome time with her, to conſult on proper Means for the future Support of his Orphan Siſter and ſelf; lightly touching on Sir *Robert*'s Behaviour, for fear of adding to the Uneaſineſs he well knew his dear *Eleanora* felt on that Occaſion; concluding, the Recency of the fatal Events which had happen'd, at preſent prevented his ſatisfying the longing Deſire he had to ſee his deareſt Friends, but, that neither Time, Place, or Circumſtance, cou'd abate the Purity of his Love and Friendſhip, nor nothing extinguiſh Paſſions ſo firmly rooted, but total deprivation of Life and Senſes.

They were both under the greateſt Concern, and endeavour'd with Lady *Richmora* to prevail on Sir *Robert* to re-

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ſtore what he had ſo cruelly taken away, in compaſſion to his Nephew and Niece; but he, deaf to their Remonſtrances, juſtified his Proceedings, declaring all would fall ſhort, by ſome Thouſands, of paying his full Demands, therefore he wou'd not be ſo unjuſt to his own Children, to wrong them, for Nephew, Neice, or any body elſe. However, they with difficulty, at laſt, obtain'd a Promiſe from him, to allow each Twenty pounds a Year, as long as they behav'd well; which Lady *Richmore* order'd *Eleanora* to acquaint them with, and that ſhe wou'd conſtantly add thirty Pounds a Year to each of their Allowances, out of her ſeparate Fortune.

Before theſe Letters arriv'd, many Conſultations had been held: his Aunt was of Opinion, as his great Uncle Mr. *Goodman* had lately writ to her, deſiring that one of the Family might be ſent to *Liſbon* to him (where he had been many Years ſettled as an eminent Merchant, and rais'd a large Fortune, having buried his Wife and Children

long ſince) it wou'd be greatly to his Advantage, to comply with his Requeſt. Mr. *Richmore* approv'd of the Propoſal and of his Siſter's remaining with her 'till his Return, without any application to their Uncle Sir *Robert*, 'till they were both of Age. This was the more readily agreed to, and their Reſentments ran too high to aſk any Favours of him. And, when the Account came of the Proviſion obtain'd for them, they perſiſted to refuſe it, 'till Miſs *Eleanora*, and Mrs. *Vanmine* earneſtly intreated their Acceptance thereof; urging, that by a Compliance therein, they might in Time, be able to procure a full Reſtitution of all, without compulſive Meaſures. The leaſt Intimation of thoſe dear Friends, was ſufficient for Mr. *Richmore*; but his Siſter's high Spirit was utterly againſt it, 'till he demonſtrated how ungrateful a Refuſal wou'd be to her Ladyſhip's Goodneſs and Generoſity, which he cou'd not help admiring.

Mrs. *Richmore*, their Aunt, being of the ſame Sentiments, Miſs *Sally* concurr'd,

and

and join'd in a Letter of Thanks to her Ladyſhip. Mr. *Richmore*, in his next Letter to *Eleanora*, acquainted her with his Aunt's Scheme and Advice of his going to *Portugal*, and that tho' Preparation was making for his Departure he wou'd not leave the Kingdom, without her Approbation and Conſent, however advantageous it might be to him. *Eleanora*'s Love being of too ſublime a Nature to interpoſe itſelf, where his Happineſs or Intereſt was concern'd, readily gave her Conſent, and a thouſand Charges of taking care of himſelf, and returning as ſpeedily as his Affairs wou'd permit; declaring, nothing cou'd ſupport her under the Affliction of his Abſence, in a foreign Country, but the Satisfaction ſhe hop'd frequently to receive of his Safety and Welfare. Many Letters thus paſs'd, fill'd with reciprocal Aſſurances of eternal Love and Friendſhip. At length a *Portugueſe* Ship, of twenty Guns, that lay in the River, being ready to depart, he embark'd on board of her.—What befell him after-

wards in the Voyage, and at *Lisbon*, will be the Subject of several following Chapters.

CHAP. XIII.

THE beautiful *Eleanora* mourn'd Mr. *Richmore*'s Absence, in the most melancholy Plaints. Mrs. *Yeamine*, tho' almost as much concern'd, used all Endeavours to cheer her drooping Spirits, but in vain, for many a silent Tear bedew'd her lovely Face, her foreboding Heart rightly conjecturing that some dire Misfortune, or Death itself, cou'd only prevent her hearing from her beloved Cousin, especially, as a full Year expir'd, without any Tidings from him. Her dear Friend's Arguments of Patience were now quite exhausted; and they both concluded, he had paid the last Debt of Nature by Shipwreck, or some other disastrous Event. Lady *Richmore*, who had always a Respect and Love for her Nephew, and was well acquainted

quainted with the Friendſhip which ſubſiſted between her Daughter and him, was the only Perſon who kept a little Hope alive, by inſiſting that many Letters might ſtill miſcarry by various Accidents, and that they ought to reſt ſatisfy'd, 'till an Anſwer cou'd be return'd from *Portugal*, whether any Miſchance had befallen the Ship in her Paſſage thither, which ſhe was in hopes they ſhould ſoon do, as Diſpatches for that Purpoſe had been ſent, more than three Months before. Sir *Robert*, however, gave himſelf little Trouble about him, *Mammon* being the Deity he ador'd, on whoſe Altar, he ſacrificed his Honour, Conſcience, and every humane Virtue.

The Vicinity of the Sea, and the Delight Sir *Robert*'s Sons took in Fiſhing, often induc'd them to hire Boats, to go off a good Way from the Shore, to follow their favourite Diverſion. The many Times they had been out, and their own Self-ſufficiency, created a Belief, that there was no difficulty in the Management of a Boat, which they, and

their conſtant Aſſociate the Tutor (ſtill retain'd in the Family) had frequently managed. Prepoſſeſs'd with this opinion, they concluded no longer to be at the Expence of paying Watermen, to go along with them, and many ſafe Returns, begot a Confidence of their own Skill.

One windy Morning, againſt the Perſuaſions of many experienced People on the Beach, they put off, ſcornfully deſpiſing both them, and their Advice, and rudely ſaying, they might have kept it till aſk'd. Misfortune, the general Attendant on Obſtinacy and Perverſeneſs, ſoon overtook them; for in a few Minutes, a ſudden Squall of Wind overſet the Boat, in the Sight of ſeveral Spectators, before they got a quarter of a Mile from the Land. The Sea running very high, and a ſtrong Tide of Flood making in, prevented the timely Aſſiſtance of two Shallops which put immediately off for that Purpoſe, and took up the three lifeleſs Bodies, and convey'd them

them home, in expectations of a large Reward.

Sir *Robert* was not in the Houſe at the Arrival of this mournful Cavalcade; but Lady *Richmore*, *Eleanora*, and Mrs. *Vanmine* (who were juſt got into the Coach to take an Airing) encountred it as it was entering the Court-Yard. The former being made ſenſible of her Loſs, and ſeeing the pale Viſages of her Sons, with Grief and Surpriſe, inſtantly fainted. Mrs. *Vanmine* ſupported her, while the dutiful *Eleanora*, with a Deluge of Tears, lamented her Brothers unhappy Fate, and the Condition in which ſhe ſaw her afflicted Mother. On Lady *Richmore's* being carried in, and laid upon the Bed, few Symptoms of Life appear'd. The Phyſician gave little hopes, and attended above ſixteen Hours before ſhe recovered out of a Fit which enſued that of her fainting. But how aſtoniſhed was he, and thoſe about her, to find the Violence of it had totally depriv'd her of Senſe, Memory, and all Ideas whatſoever!

Sir *Robert*, unable to bear these severe Shocks, ran about like one distracted; reproaching even the Wind and Seas with his evil Fortune, not considering that it might proceed immediately from the great Author of all Causes, as an Effect of his Wrath and Displeasure against him for his wretched Avarice and Extortions, which many others look'd upon as such; tho' they heartily pitied his Lady, whose Charity and Goodness had erected and endowed a Free-school in the Neighbourhood, and was indeed a bountiful Friend to the poor and distress'd.

Sir *Robert* buried his Sons with great Magnificence, and rais'd a costly Monument to their Memory, on which was an Inscription, diametrically opposite to their true Characters; giving them Virtues they never possess'd, and Sentiments they never thought of; a Practice too common in ancient, as well as our own depraved Age. Witness the many stupendous Structures in *Westminster-Abby*, and elsewhere, fill'd with pompous

pous Titles, infamously obtain'd, and swelling Epitaphs full of the Virtues, Liberality and Charity, of the Deceas'd, when in Truth, the whole Practice of their Lives frequently gave the Lye to every Encomium. Nay, it is notoriously known, that many of them were Men who had accumulated Fortunes, and advanced themselves to Dignities, by Rapine and Plunder: That their Religion was Pretence; their Liberality, to Pimps and Whores only; and their Charity, in leaving at their Deaths, Part of what they had unjustly got, to the Poor, when they cou'd keep it no longer.

Sir *Robert* soon consoled himself with reflecting, that tho' he had lost his Sons, they had carried none of his great Possessions along with them, and that he had still a beloved Daughter, in whom, next his Money, he plac'd all his Joy. He now turn'd his Thoughts chiefly on making her a desirable Match to the richest, and most considerable Man of Quality in the Kingdom, and inform'd Mrs.

Vanmine (who, at his Desire, had taken the Management of his House) and *Eleanora* of his Intentions. On mentioning his Design, the latter fell on her Knees, begging he wou'd lay aside all such Thoughts, if he had the least Regard for her Happiness, and had not come to a Resolution of making her inevitably miserable; adding, that the filial Love and Duty she bore the best of Mothers, requir'd her constant Attendance, in the Condition she was in; nor wou'd the Duty and Affection she ow'd him, as an indulgent Parent, permit her to entertain so criminal a Thought, as the leaving either of them in their present Affliction.

Mrs. *Vanmine* approv'd her Sentiments, and enforced them with much Discretion, by representing *Eleanora*'s tender Years, and advising him to suspend, for a Time, whatever Views he might have of that kind, since she was assur'd, from the Knowledge she had of *Eleanora*'s Disposition and Constitution, that any Force upon her Inclination,

tion, wou'd infallibly leave him quite childleſs. By ſuch Arguments as theſe, join'd to the ardent Prayers of his Daughter, he was prevail'd on to promiſe, that, how impatient ſoever he was to ſee her married, and bleſs'd with Iſſue, to inherit his Eſtate, he wou'd forbear, either admitting or recommending any Perſon in the Quality of a Suitor, for the preſent Time, and alſo gave the ſtrongeſt Aſſurances, that no Force ſhou'd ever be put upon her Inclinations.

This Declaration of the Father, remov'd the Uneaſineſs his Propoſal had given them; but no News arriving from Mr. *Richmore*, and her Ladyſhip continuing in the ſame melancholy State, gave them infinite Grief. Moſt of their Hours they ſpent in that Lady's Chamber, hoping that Time, unanimous Endeavours, and conſtant, tender, and affectionate Means they ſhou'd make uſe of, might be happily inſtrumental in reſtoring her to her former Senſes, notwithſtanding the Doctor's Opinion of her being incurable.

The

The Care, Aſſiduity, and Perſeverance of the one, as an heroick Inſtance, of the moſt refined Friendſhip, and the Love, Duty and Tenderneſs of the other, ſurpaſs'd any that has been recorded, of the moſt dutiful Daughter, nor was the Loſs of her Brothers lamented with a more ſincere Concern, by a loving Siſter.

Mr. *Richmore*, as has been before obſerv'd, embark'd in a *Portugueſe* Veſſel, and was greatly pleas'd with the Gentleman-like Behaviour, and general good Character of the Captain, who on his coming on Board, receiv'd him with uncommon Civility and Politeneſs. He there found a young Surgeon, his fellow Paſſenger, who had been left behind by his Ship, which was bound likewiſe to *Liſbon*. They proceeded on their Voyage, without any Adventure or ill Accident, 'till their Arrival on the Coaſt of *Portugal*, when the Sight of Land caus'd a general Rejoicing. At the ſame Time, they perceiv'd a ſmall Veſſel ſtanding off from the Shore, which they at firſt

imagin'd

imagin'd was a Coaster of their own Nation, but on a nearer Approach, Captain *Pedro* ſuſpected her to be, by her Built, a *Sallee*-Rover, or *Barbary* Pirate; and obſerving likewiſe, by his Teleſcope, that ſhe ſeem'd crowded with Men, he gave immediate Orders to prepare his Ship for an Engagement; ſummoning Officers and Men to their proper Poſts and Stations, giving Directions to furl both main and fore Sail, and to take in the ſmall, and run the great Guns out.

The Infidel was a ſmall Sloop, of ten Guns, who on viewing the Diſpoſition for engaging, and the Largeneſs of the Ship, ſeem'd to have no Inclination to attack, by changing her Courſe, and ſtanding away, when within Gun-ſhot. On ſeeing this, whoever had been on board, wou'd have taken the *Portugueſe* Crew (which conſiſted of forty-eight Men) to have been all *Cæſars* and *Alexanders*, for they inſtantly began calling the *Moors* all the cowardly Dogs they cou'd think of, each brandiſhing his Cutlaſs, and

ſwearing

ſwearing by St. *Antonia* they wou'd either have died or been Conquerors; calling out to the Captain to purſue the Rover, that they might ſhow their Valour and Courage, by cutting to Pieces thoſe faithleſs Dogs, being reſolv'd not to give Quarter to one of them.

However, whether he diſtruſted this Bravado of his Men or not, we are not aſſur'd; but he commended the Courage they had ſhown, hoiſted his Flag, and fired a Gun, in order to bring the Sloop to, without any Deſign of chacing, if ſhe continued to run away; on which, ſhe ſhew'd *Moriſh* Colours, and pour'd in her Broadſide; the Compliment was ſoon return'd, the Renegado deſpiſing the Inequality of the Ships, again put about, and made up to the *Portugueſe*, being, as he own'd afterwards, encourag'd thereto by ſeeing the Flag.

That Inſtant, a viſible Change was obſervable in the Countenances of thoſe Heroes, tho' they ſtill bounc'd and vapour'd, continually crying out, *Courage, Courage.* The Action began at about half

half Gun-ſhot, and laſted near an Hour, before the Loſs of a Man. As Captain *Pedro* was a Perſon of true Conduct as well as Bravery, he kept edging down 'till he was within Piſtol-ſhot of the Enemy, that he might not ſpend his Ammunition fruitleſly, he not having any great Quantity on board. In this Engagement, two *Engliſh* Seamen, belonging to a Man of War, who work'd for their Paſſage to *Liſbon*, were of great Uſe: They intimated to the Captain, how ill the two great Guns in the Waſte were ply'd, and the little Execution they did, offering themſelves to take the Management of them; which was no ſooner done, but it was perceivable every Diſcharge hull'd the Enemy, and kill'd ſo many of her Men, that ſhe was oblig'd to fall a Stern, and lie on the Carreen to ſtop her Leaks.

In the Heat of the Engagement, two Men were kill'd, and four or five wounded. This ſo intimidated the reſt, that before the Sloop ſheer'd off, every *Portugueſe*, except the Captain, and five of his

his Officers, left the Deck, and ran into the Hold to Prayers; from whence, neither Intreaties, Promises or Threats, cou'd draw them, altho' they were inform'd the Infidel was near sinking, and heard the Guns still firing, yet their more than Womanish Fears, were deaf to all that cou'd be said, to animate them to come up.

The Renegado plainly perceiv'd the Crew had got under the Hatches, and judg'd, by the Panic they must be in, that a new, and brisk Attack, in all likelihood would succeed; he therefore got out his Oars (there being but little Wind) and row'd up again to board them, on the Star-board Quarter, when nothing was omitted to annoy them, and every Gun that cou'd be brought to bear was fir'd, which being loaded with Small-shot, many of her Men dropt.

On the Enemy's boarding their Ship (which they effected, notwithstanding the gallant Defence made to oppose it) the Powder Chest, on the Quarter, was blown

blown up with good Success, several of their People being either kill'd, or so intimidated, that they were glad to recover their own Vessel, when they instantly sheer'd off, and seem'd to be in great Confusion. In this Attack, the *Portuguese* had the Misfortune to lose his Lieutenant, by a Cannon-shot, and one of the *English* Sailors, who had done Wonders, much wounded, who declar'd, after having his Wounds dress'd, he was as able to fight again as ever.

The Rover continued to Cannonade, near two Hours, before coming to a Resolution of Boarding a second Time, but at last truly conjecturing, by not returning their Fire, for above half an Hour, that all the Ammunition was expended, (as it really was, not having a Charge for a Cannon left, tho' a little still remain'd for the Musketry; and seven Grenadoes, which it was determin'd they shou'd have at the next Approach) they row'd up to the *Portuguese* again, with a hideous Shout, and were going to enter, when the Grenadoes were all thrown,

thrown, one whereof falling into the Hold, ſet ſome dry Sails on Fire, which put them into the utmoſt Conſternation, and oblig'd them once more to retire, with Loſs.

Having extinguiſh'd the Fire, and being highly exaſperated at the ſtubborn Defence of ſo inconſiderable a few, the Commander of the Pirate, who was an *Iriſh* Renegado, bold, undaunted, and reſolute, declar'd, he wou'd again row a Longſide, and faſten to the Ship; ſwearing dreadfully, he wou'd either loſe himſelf, or carry her. The Action had continued near ſeven Hours, ſuſtain'd by ten Perſons only, and even at laſt, could the cowardly Crew have been prevail'd on to ſhow themſelves, the Enemy muſt have abandon'd their Enterprize; for their Compliment of Men, which was ninety at firſt, was now reduc'd to leſs than half that Number, capable of Service: But what can be ſaid of Men immerg'd in Fears, whoſe baſe, daſtardly Souls, wou'd rather ſubmit to ſpend a Life in abject Slavery, than hazard it

in

in Defence of glorious Liberty and Property?

The Infidel boarded the *Portugueſe* Veſſel a third Time, when having nothing but their Swords to defend themſelves withal, they were overpower'd with Numbers. Captain *Pedro* dropping in the Attack, oppreſs'd with Wounds and Loſs of Blood, *Richmore* got over him, and receiv'd on his Sword the impending Blow of the Renegado, which wou'd have cleft his Skull in ſunder. At length, after a moſt obſtinate Fight, encompaſs'd, wounded and diſarm'd, they were all oblig'd to ſurrender.

Some of the Moors were for cutting every Soul to pieces, to revenge the Death of many of their Companions, which had been kill'd in the Action; but happily the Commander, and the major Part being for preſerving the Priſoners (not out of Pity, and Humanity, but on Conſideration that the Money ariſing from their Ranſom wou'd greatly enhance the Value of their Prize) their Lives were ſpared; but they were all inſtantly

ſtantly ſtrip'd to the Skin, and ſoon after laid in Irons. The Renegado, Captain *Burne*, order'd the four *Engliſh* Priſoners to ſit down, on the Quarter-Deck, 'till the *Portugueſe* Priſoners were ſecur'd, and the Hurry over; ſaying, they ſhou'd find their Caſe better than they expected. Encouraged by this Speech, it was requeſted (as one of their Company was a Surgeon, and had a Cheſt of Medicines on board) that he might have his Chains taken off, and be permitted to dreſs the many bleeding Wounds, he cou'd not help obſerving. This being granted, no Time was loſt: he began with Captain *Pedro*'s, and could not be prevail'd on to dreſs his own, till the laſt. When he had finiſh'd, he declar'd his Pleaſure and Satisfaction, at finding none of the Wounds of his Friends either mortal or dangerous.

It is impoſſible to conceive the Confuſion that now reign'd. The Moors ran about like Men diſtracted, ſearching every Hole and Corner for Plunder; tho' they firſt drag'd up, and ſtrip'd the cowardly

cowardly Crew, who had hid themſelves in the Engagement; then fell to breaking open Cheſts, Trunks, &c. cutting Bedding to Pieces, in Hopes of finding Money conceal'd therein, and every Thing valuable or portable, they remov'd into their own Sloop. About two Hours after, the *Engliſh*, with the *Portugueſe* Captain, were call'd into the Cabin, and inform'd, by the Renegado, that a frank Confeſſion of their Families and Condition, wou'd intitle them to his Protection and good Uſage, as the contrary would deprive them of both.

Captain *Pedro*'s Account being open and free, in regard to himſelf and Cargo, they all follow'd his Example, and as a particular Inſtance of the Renegado's being ſatisfied with the Account, he order'd *Richmore*'s Chains to be taken off, and ſome of the Cloaths belonging to the *Portugueſe*, given to him and his Countrymen. On deſiring that the four *Engliſh* might remain together in the Ship, and the *Portugueſe* Captain with them, the

the firſt, Captain *Burne* granted, but abſolutely refus'd the laſt, on Account of being oblig'd, he ſaid, to take him and all his Men on board the Sloop. Then ſaying he ſhould make the beſt of his Way to *Sallee*, he appointed his Brother lately come from *Ireland*, Commander of the Prize, with eighteen Moors to work the Ship.

CHAP. XIV.

THE new Captain took great State upon him, interrogating each Perſon again, in the moſt ignorant Manner; often bragging, that their Lives and Death were at his Diſpoſal; hoping, by Threats, to find out Money or Valuables, that might have been hid in the Ship. By his Brother's Orders, the Cheſt of Medicines was left on board; in his rummaging of which, he obliged the Surgeon to take every thing out, that he might ſee nothing was conceal'd therein. A Caſe-bottle full of Cinnamon

mon-Water, and another with Cordial he made a Prize of, and was never ſober while they laſted.

In one of his drunken Fits, he pretended to have a Value for *Richmore* and the Doctor; telling them he was turn'd *Turk*, and had been offer'd a fine *Mooriſh* Woman immenſely rich, and propoſed having a Seraglio of his own, and to purchaſe them for his Slaves; inſinuating, he was of one of the oldeſt and beſt Families of *Ireland*, whoſe Eſtates wou'd be as great as any in the Kingdom, if they had their Rights, and a Hundred other idle and ridiculous Stories. His Love of ſtrong Liquors, brought the *Moors*, on board, to like them as well as he, who all rejoic'd at finding a Caſk of Brandy. *Richmore* and the Doctor were kept employ'd in making them Punch, with ſome ſtale Lime-juice that fell in their way.

The only Navigator the *Moors* had on board, in his Cups fell over the Ship's Side and was drowned; it happened to blow hard in the Night, and they loſt ſight of

the Sloop and Land. In the Morning they were oblig'd to unchain the two Sailors, to aſſiſt in working the Ship, and carrying her to Port, none of them knowing any thing of Navigation; this gave frequent Opportunities of converſing with one another, while *Burne* was drunk, or aſleep, no body elſe underſtanding one word of *Engliſh*.

Mr. *White*, the Surgeon, intimated he had thought of a Scheme for the Recovery of the Ship and their Liberties. The two *Engliſh* Seamen, before he cou'd propoſe it, were for falling upon the *Moors* directly, as ſeveral were then drunk; but, on deſiring to be heard through, they deſiſted. He then related the Manner in which it might be done with the greateſt Security. You know, ſaid he, the Captain, and all the *Moors* dine together, at Twelve o'Clock, and that I and *Richmore* make the Punch, they ſo plentifully drink of at that Time. I can drench their Liquor with a ſufficient Quantity of *Laudanum* (of which there is enough in my Cheſt) to throw them

them into a ſound Sleep in leſs than half an Hour; then let us take that Opportunity of binding them faſt, and carrying the Ship to any Part of *Portugal*, from which we cannot be far, having Yeſterday a fair View of its Coaſts.

Accordingly the next Day the Project was put in Execution, and ſucceeded ſo well, little Difficulty accrued in ſecuring them all under the Hatches; and there being little Wind, Night came on before they recover'd Sight of Land. At Day-break, they fell in with an *Engliſh* Pink, bound for *Oporto*; the Captain whereof (on Information of their Circumſtances, and on begging Aſſiſtance) hoiſted out his Boat, and came on board. He finding all things as related, ſaid, tho' he cou'd not ſpare any of his own People, there were eight Sailors on board, ſaved out of a Brigantine which foundered at Sea, whom he wou'd endeavour to perſuade to aſſiſt the Ship to *Liſbon*, on Aſſurances of being handſomely rewarded for their Trouble. It was likewiſe requeſted, that the *Moors* might be taken on board of

him, as he was ſo near his Port, and in all Probability wou'd be able to land them before Night, or the next Morning, repreſenting it might be many Days before the Veſſel cou'd reach hers, and the Crew in continual Danger of the *Moors* riſing upon them.

The Captain, altho' a humane Man, ſeem'd unwilling to encumber himſelf with them, yet at laſt conſented, on account of the Sailors declaring they wou'd not come on board, unleſs he comply'd. While they were removing the *Moors* into their Ship, the *Iriſhman* that acted as Captain, implored ſome Pity might be ſhewn to his Youth, and beg'd they wou'd let him paſs for one of the *Engliſh*; proteſting, never to return to *Barbary* again, but to follow his Trade of a Shoe-maker, and get his Bread honeſtly for the future. Their good Nature was prevail'd on ſo to do, when he made a Thouſand Acknowledgments for the Favour, ſwearing the utmoſt Gratitude, if ever in his Power.

Soon

Soon after the Wind ſpringing up fair they took leave of the Pink, and ſteer'd a Courſe for *Liſbon*, along Shore, having before made the Land. Early the next Morning, a large Ship was obſerv'd, at about a Mile diſtance on the Weather-bow, which immediately gave chace, and fir'd a Gun; they lay by for her. She prov'd a *Portugueſe* Man of War, of Forty Guns, on a Cruize againſt the *Moriſh* Rovers, which lately had infeſted their Coaſt; the Commander was Son to a Nobleman, of little Experience in naval Affairs. He ſent his Boat on board, and *Richmore* and the Surgeon return'd in it. On Examination before him and the Chaplain, who was an *Iriſhman*, they truly related every thing that had happened, from their ſailing from *England*, to that Day, omitting only a Diſcovery of *Burne* being one of the *Moor*'s Crew.

The Prieſt, pretending to great Penetration, ſhook his Head; ſaying, he look'd on the Whole as a made up Story that could gain no Credit. He poſſeſſed

the Captain with an Opinion that they were *Engliſh* Pirates, who had murther'd the *Portugueſe*, and were now running away with the Ship. In conſequence of this Suggeſtion, they were loaded with Irons and put down in the Hold, and poſſeſſion taken of the Ship in the King's Name. The reſt of the People were ſent for, and interrogated one by one, and threatened by the Prieſt with being tortur'd, if they did not confeſs the Truth; who aſſured them, that ſome of their Companions had already own'd, they had murther'd the Captain and Crew, and were running away with the Ship and Cargo. Some of the Sailors lately taken on board, were frightened out of their Wits; and ſaid, it might be ſo for aught they knew, but it muſt have been done before they came on board. The two Sailors Accounts that work'd for their Paſſage, tallied exactly with *Richmore*'s and the Doctor's, they therefore deſpis'd all Threatenings, and laugh'd, when told what ſome of the Company had confeſs'd.

Burne

Burne being laſt examin'd, after the ſame Manner, and told the ſame Things, was aſked, where, and how, he came on board? who, not knowing well how to anſwer, for fear of betraying himſelf to have belong'd to the *Moors*, made a ſad Piece of Work; ſaying, ſometimes from *England*, in the Ship, and at others, that he was put on board three Weeks before. The *Portugueſe* Captain, being convinced that was untrue, and impoſſible, as it plainly appear'd ſhe had left *England* but twelve Days, he then pretended he meant three Days; this Blundering, and Prevarication, gave ſome Grounds for Suſpicion.

The Prieſt diſcovering him to be his Countryman, and a Catholick, adviſed him to confeſs the murther of the *Portugueſe* Crew, and their Intent of ſeizing the Ship; which from all Circumſtances plainly appear'd, he ſaid, by what ſome of them had own'd, and by that Means prevent his being put to the Torture with the reſt of the cruel Hereticks, on their Arrival at *Liſbon*; promiſing him

Life, Liberty, and great Rewards to encourage him thereto.

Burne, conſidering with himſelf, if he cou'd regain his Liberty, he might have an Opportunity of making his Eſcape, told the Father, that they were all murther'd, and thrown into the Sea, was true, but that he had no Hand in it; and offer'd to tell all he knew, if he was alone with him. With joy the Prieſt carried him into his Cabin, where by his Aſſiſtance, and leading Queſtions, the following falſe and villanous Affidavit was cook'd up between them.

'*Patrick Burne*, Shoemaker, Native 'of *Connaught* in the Kingdom of *Ireland*, 'born and brought up in the Holy 'Church, ſolemnly ſwears before God, 'the ever bleſſed Euchariſt (which has 'been juſt adminiſtered to him by the 'Hands of *Laughlin Gaubagan*, Prieſt) 'the immaculate Virgin, Saint *Peter*, 'Saint *Paul*, and all the Saints and An-'gels, that the following Declaration is 'true.

'That

'That on or about the First Day of 'this present Month of *May*, he embark'd 'on board the good Ship St. *Anna Maria*, 'Captain *Pedro Alvares*, Commander, 'bound from *England* to *Lisbon*, as a 'Passenger, with a Design to follow his 'Trade in that City; that there were 'Four *English* Heretick's likewise Passen-'gers; Two of them appeared as Gentle-'men, ate with the Captain, and lay in 'a Cabin adjoining to his; one was 'call'd Mr. *Richmore*, the other Doctor '*White*, with two Sailors that work'd for 'their Passage, who were call'd *Jack* and '*Harry*; that on the Fifth or Sixth Day 'after Sailing, they met a small *English* 'Vessel, ready to sink, with Eight Persons 'in her, which the good Captain *Pedro* 'out of Charity and Humanity sav'd, 'by taking them on board of his own 'Ship, and are the same Men now in 'Custody; that *Richmore* and the Doctor, 'in the Evening, invited them, and 'their two other Countrymen, into their 'Cabin, treating them with Punch, till 'they were all very drunk; but this

'Deponent

'Deponent being a Catholick, was not 'admitted; but verily believes they then 'entered into the wicked and horrid Con- 'ſpiracy, of murthering the Captain and 'his Men, and ſeizing the Ship; for that 'the next and following Day, they were 'all very unruly and mutinous; and the 'next Night, Captain *Pedro*, and moſt 'of the *Portugueſe* were thrown into a 'ſound ſleep by Means of *Laudanum*, or 'other intoxicating Drugs, being put by 'the Doctor into the Water, as this De- 'ponent has heard ſince, from many of 'them; and was likewiſe told, that thoſe 'few awake on Duty, were ſet upon in 'ſo ſecret a Manner, that their Brains 'were beat out with Hand-ſpikes, be- 'fore they ſuſpected any Treachery; the 'reſt below, were fetch'd up, one by 'one, and all heav'd Overboard.

'And further this Deponent believes, 'he was either forgot, or could not be 'found that Night, or he ſhould have 'undergone the ſame Fate; for having 'drank of the ſame Water, which he 'thought had an odd Taſte, he went in-

'to

'to the Hold, to look for ſome other; 'before he could get any, he found him-'ſelf ſo heavy and ſleepy as oblig'd him 'to lie down there upon a Caſk, without 'waking for many Hours; and that, on 'his coming upon Deck, he heard *Rich-'more* ſay to the Doctor, Here is the Son 'of a Bitch of an *Iriſhman* we cou'd not 'find; Damn him, added he, let us ſend 'him to the Devil and St. *Patrick* for 'Orders. That as he was going to give 'them an Anſwer, knowing nothing of 'what had happen'd, he was ſeiz'd, his 'Hands were ty'd behind him, and was 'told, he muſt follow Captain *Pedro* and 'his Crew; bidding him to make haſte, 'or they would be got to Hell before 'him; that he beg'd hard for his Life; 'that the Doctor and *Richmore* cry'd, 'Overboard with Teague; which as they 'were juſt going to do, one of the Men 'ſaid, he was a ſtout, luſty young Fel-'low, and might be of uſe; therefore 'propos'd, if he wou'd ſwear to be true, 'and ſign the Articles, he wou'd be for 'ſaving him; that ſome of the Seaman

'ſaid

' ſaid the ſame; and on putting it to
' the Vote, he was preſerv'd, againſt the
' Will of the chief Ringleaders, tho' ob-
' lig'd to make dreadful Imprecations
' never to diſcover the Secret.

' That he would at firſt have told the
' whole Truth, but was in fear of being
' murther'd by the bloody-minded Vil-
' lains. And this Deponent further ſaith,
' that ſeveral Conſultations had been
' held, where they ſhould carry the Ship;
' at the laſt, which happen'd Yeſterday,
' 'twas agreed to ſteer to *Sallee*, or any
' other *Moriſh* Port; the Doctor and
' *Richmore* declaring, there was no fear
' of Protection on turning *Mahometans*;
' and as they were Maſters of a Ship of
' Force, it wou'd be eaſy to procure Men
' enough to put them in a Condition to
' cruize upon all Chriſtian Powers, and
' thereby make their Fortunes.

' That this Reſolution had been put
' into immediate Execution, without the
' Interpoſition of Divine Providence, to
' fruſtrate their Deſigns; which wou'd no
' longer

'longer ſuffer the wicked, blood-thirſty
'Hereticks to go unpuniſhed.
'Sign'd and Sworn, the 14th of *May*,
'on board his *Portugueſe* Majeſty's Ship,
'the St. *Michael*, in the Preſence of
'Don *Diego Juan de Lopez*,
Captain,
'*Laughlin Gaubagan*,
Prieſt, *The Mark* ‡ *of*
'Captain *Mar*, PATRICK BURNE.'
'Firſt Lieutenant,
'Second Lieutenant.'

In conſequence of this Information *Burne*'s Irons were taken off, and the Liberty of the Ship given him. Mr. *Richmore* and the Doctor were again examin'd, and admoniſhed by the Prieſt to confeſs their Crimes, renounce their Errors, and repent of the barbarous Murthers they had been guilty of. He aſſur'd them, how vain all Pleas of Innocence wou'd be, after the ſolemn Confeſſion and Depoſition of Mr. *Burne* their fellow Paſſenger; tho' not confe-

derate

derate with Hereticks, in their helliſh Undertakings.

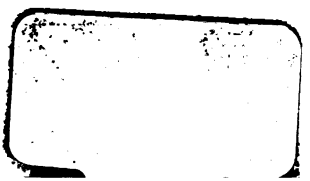
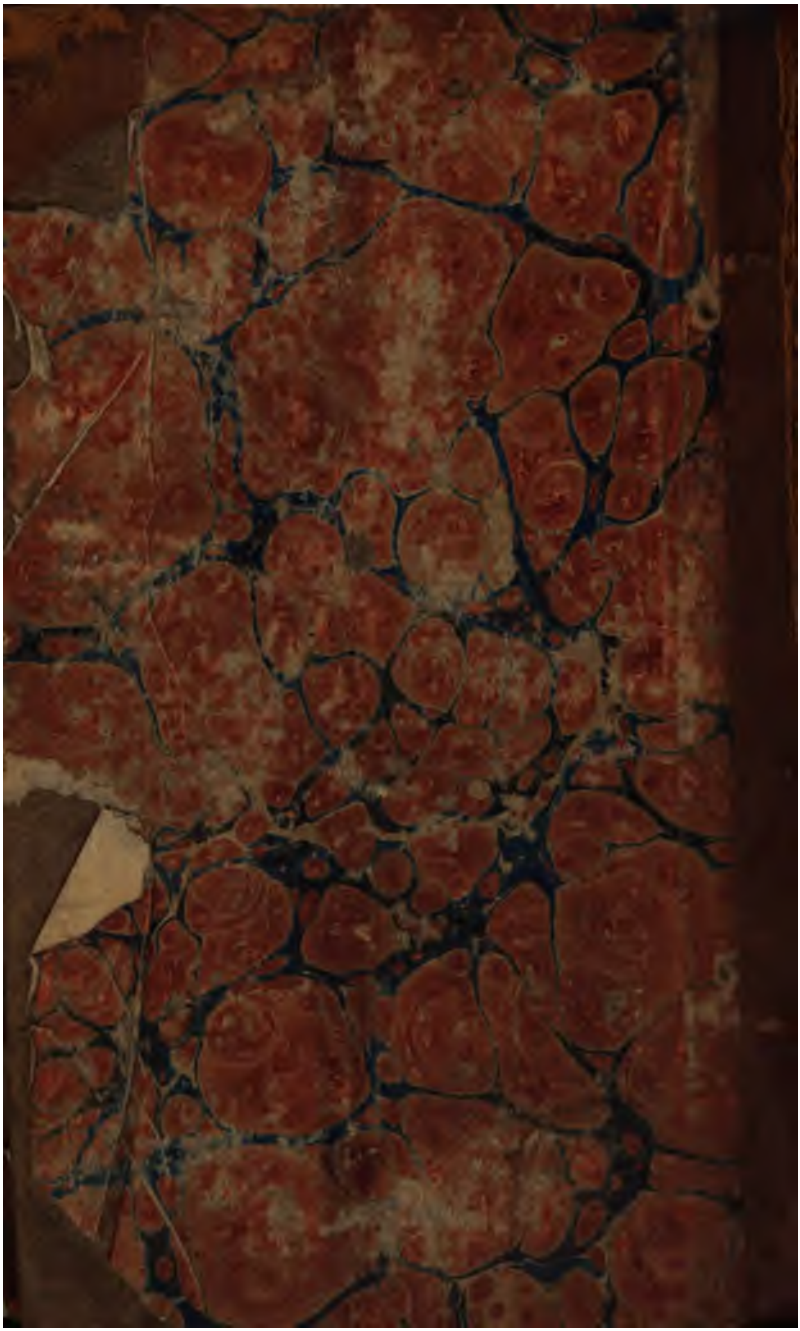
He then read the above Affidavit; inſolently requiring they wou'd ſet their Hands to a Truth no longer diſputable; otherwiſe, Tortures wou'd not fail of extorting a Confeſſion (which from the Hardneſs of their Hearts, and Unbelief of Holy Church) he fear'd cou'd not be obtain'd any other Way. They both continu'd unmov'd at his threatening, tho' ſurpris'd at the Perjury of *Burne*, and the artful Villany of the other, in drawing up ſuch a falſe and infamous Depoſition. They adher'd to their former Examinations, except only in what concern'd *Burne*; for they now own'd themſelves to blame for not diſcovering him to be one of the Rover's Crew, and Brother to the Renegado Captain, that took their Ship, and by him appointed Commander of the Prize; likewiſe relating, that when he was ſecur'd as well as the *Moors*, he pleaded ſo hard and promis'd ſo faithfully never to return to them again, pure Compaſſion

and

and Humanity prevail'd on them, to keep him on board; little expecting the ungrateful Return made to that Indulgence.

They then declared, no Tortures could compel them unjuſtly to tax themſelves with Crimes they abhorred, and were intirely innocent of; which would inevitably appear, on the *Charming Mary* Pink's landing the Moors at *Oporto*, which they had put on board of her at Sea, having left her but the Day before, near that Place, to which they were bound: concluding, it was their joint Opinion, it would be no difficult Taſk, even now, to prove *Burne* a perjured Impoſtor, if they would ſuffer him to be ſearched; having ſeveral Times ſaid, at the Inſtance of his Brother, he had turned Turk, and was really ſo, though he had not yet put on the Dreſs.

The Captain ordered him and the Surgeon to be ſent for, that he might be examined before them all; but the Chaplain oppoſed it, as an Indecency, inſiſting, the Doctor's Teſtimony was ſuffici-

ſufficient alone. The Surgeon reported, no Marks of Circumciſion appeared; which being looked upon as a full Conviction of Guilt, they were all hurried down to the reſt of their Fellow-Sufferers, who would hardly believe the Relation given of the pretended Confeſſion of the *Iriſh-man*, nor the barbarous Treatment and Inſults of the Ship's Company, while they were conveying them down into the Hold. Their daily Allowance was Half a Pound of Bread and a Pint of ſtinking Water. In about ten Days their Cruize was out, and the Man of War arrived at *Liſbon*. The Report of the *Engliſh* having maſſacred a whole *Portugueſe* Crew, and running away to the Infidels with the Ship and Cargoe, was ſpread over the City; and a Mob aſſembled at their Landing, which would have torn them to Pieces, had they not been protected by the Guard of Soldiers, who had the Charge of conducting them to Priſon.

The End of VOL. I.